

## THURSTON COUNTY AND ITS COMMISSIONERS: 1852 - 2013

(Gleaned from the original minutes of Commission meetings, Olympia City Directories, and a few observations from Rathbun's History of Thurston County, Washington, 1895 by Winnifred L. Olsen, Thurston County Historic Commission).

### BEGINNINGS

Thurston County was created by an act of the Oregon Territorial Legislatures January 12, 1852. The intent at first was to name the area Simmons County for Michael T. Simmons, but upon the news of the sudden death of Samuel Royal Thurston, first Territorial Representative to Congress from Oregon, the name was changed to Thurston "to perpetuate his memory."

The boundaries of the new county encompassed most of what is now Western Washington, reaching from Lewis County to the Canadian border, from the summit of the Cascade Range to the Pacific Ocean. In December, 1852, the counties of Jefferson, Pierce, and King were created from Thurston; others followed.

The first Thurston County officials elected in June, 1852 were: A. J. Simmons, Sheriff; A. M. Poe, County Clerk; Daniel R. Bigelow, Treasurer; R. S. Bailey, Assessor; Edmund Sylvester, Coroner; and A. A. Denny, Sidney S. Ford Sr., and David Shelton, County Commissioners. In the early years, the County Commissioners also acted as judges of the court.

Thus, the year 1852 marked the beginning of organized government of Puget Sound.

1852    FIRST TERM                    OLYMPIA, MONDAY, JULY 5, 1852

"At a term of the Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County, Territory of Oregon held at Olympia July 5, 1852, Arthur A. Denny and David Shelton appeared and took the oath of office; appointed Daniel R. Bigelow, Clerk, pro tem, and opened court at 9 o'clock A.M." D. R. Bigelow, Clerk, Pro Tempore

### July 6, 1852

Present were: A. A. Denny and David Shelton, Commissioners, A. J. Simmons, Sheriff and D. R. Bigelow, Clerk, pro tem. David Shelton was appointed presiding judge of the County Commissioners court (or Chairman). Voting precincts were designated. Upon drawing lots to determine the terms of office, it was noted that:

A. A. Denny would serve one year  
David Shelton, two years  
Sidney S. Ford, three years.

Seven school districts were approved on July 7<sup>th</sup> and two grocery store licenses granted.

### September 6, 1852

Commissioners present were A. A. Denny and Sidney Ford, with David Shelton absent. The first order of business was approving the petition of William Packwood for a school district between Olympia and Steilacoom. Packwood was also allowed a ferry license on the Nisqually River, for which he was to pay the county treasurer the sum of one dollar. Fees were also set for passengers and animals. Road districts were designated throughout the entire county.

### December 6, 1852

The meeting was adjourned to December 7<sup>th</sup> as David Shelton was the only commissioner appearing. He was again the lone attendee Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> so the meeting was adjourned until six o'clock December 8<sup>th</sup> when Arthur A. Denny arrived from Seattle. A full meeting was held December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 1853

President Millard Fillmore signed congressional legislation March 3, 1853 creating Washington Territory. Isaac I. Stevens was appointed Territorial Governor by President Pierce. Thurston County census in the summer of 1853: 906.

### 1853

Sidney S. Ford, Commissioner  
David Shelton, Commissioner

Thurston County had only two commissioners during 1853 as King County had been created and that is where A. A. Denny resided. Sessions were scheduled for March, April, July, September, October and December but the two Commissioners seemed to have played "cat and mouse" about attending.

At the September three day session, Ford was the only one arriving each day and the meeting was adjourned to October 3.

David Shelton was the only Commissioner present October 3 and 4 and he ordered the sheriff to go to the Ford's home to see if and when he could attend. Ford was present the next day, but no business was reported.

Business conducted the next day, October 6, including appointing Urban E. Hicks, Clerk with James R. Hurd and Stephen D. Ruddell signing as sureties for his bond. (Hicks was Ruddell's step-son.) Pierce County petitioned for money from Thurston County school funds but were told that all funds had been distributed and there was only \$56.52 left in the county treasury. Several "Road Viewers" were appointed.

January 30, 1854

Washington Territorial legislature elected.

February 27, 1854

First Territorial legislature meets at the Gold Bar restaurant.

A corps of county officers were designated in counties where vacancies existed.

April 3, 1854

David Shelton and Sidney S. Ford hold a commissioners meeting.

June 5, 1854

"Messrs Sidney Ford, James McAllister and David J. Chambers appointed members of the Board of County Commissioners for Thurston County by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Washington; sworn in before Clerk Urban E. Hicks, notary public of said county, and thereupon cause the court to be opened in due form."

June 7, 1854

More precincts are formed and election official appointed.

September 7, 1854

Only Chambers and Ford attend.

December 4, 1854

John N. Low, Levis Shelton and Sidney S. Ford sworn in at 9 a.m. (no information as to new election or appointment)

December 6, 1854

Commissioner terms are drawn:

Sidney S. Ford - 3 years

Levi Shelton - 2 years

John N. Low - 1 year

March 5, 1855

John N. Low - Commissioners

Levi Shelton

Sidney Ford - absent at most of the 1855 meetings.

Prohibition was approved in Thurston County in the summer of 1855 but failed to carry in the Territory. 377 votes cast in Thurston County.

December 4, 1855

Levis Shelton - commissioners  
Joseph Broshears  
Sidney Ford - not attending

March 1856

Levi Shelton  
Joseph Broshears (Broshears was listed only at two meetings.)  
Sidney Ford - not attending

September 1, 1856

A. J. Chambers, elected Chairman  
Joseph Cornell  
Sidney Ford - not attending until September 6<sup>th</sup>.

(results of a July election)

March, 1857

A. J. Chambers  
Sidney s. Ford, Sr.  
Joseph Cornell

September 7, 1857

Joseph Cornell  
James Biles (Biles became Chairman December 7<sup>th</sup>.)  
Andrew J. Chambers

March 2, 1858

James Biles, chairman  
Andrew J. Chambers  
Joseph Cornell

Entire Year 1859

James Biles, Chairman

Andrew J. Chambers  
Joseph Cornell

May, 1860

James Biles, Chairman  
Andrew J. Chamberes  
Joseph Cornell

August, 1860

Andrew chambers, Chairman  
Joseph Cornell  
Sidney S. Ford (re-elected)

May 6, 1861

James Biles (appointed in consequence of the action of the territorial legislature)  
Andrew Chambers, Chairman  
Joseph Cornell

August, 1861

Andrew Chambers, Chairman  
G. W. French  
G. W. Miller

August 4, 1862

G. W. Miller, Chairman  
G. W. French  
Stephen D. Ruddell

September 7, 1863

Geo. W. French, Chairman  
Stephen D. Ruddell  
Joseph Gibson (sworn in to replace G. W. Miller)

August 8, 1864

Stephen D. Ruddell, Chairman  
Joseph Gibson  
James Dunlap

August 14, 1865

James Dunlap, Chairman  
Abram Tilley  
W. S. Parsons (only listing was attending this meeting)

July 2, 1866

James Dunlap, Chairman  
Abram Tilley  
Robert Waddell (replaced Parsons)

August 5, 1867

James Dunlap, Chairman  
J. M. Shotwell  
A. W. Cairns

1868

James Dunlap, Chairman  
J. M. Shotwell  
A. W. Cairns

June 28, 1869

A called session for newly elected board and new chairman

George A. Barnes, Chairman  
Stephen Hodgden  
Olen Crosby (Clanrick)

1870

George A. Barnes, chairman  
Stephen Hodgden  
Clanrick Crosby

July 5, 1871

A special session to reorganize the new board. Wm. James was elected, but died before being sworn into office.

Wm. McLane (appointed to replace James and was named Chairman)  
Ira Ward, Jr.  
Geo. W. French

August 5, 1872

Stephen Hodgden (appointed to replace G. W. French who moved to Olympia)  
Wm. McLane, Chairman  
Ira Ward, Jr.

February 3, 1873

Benjamin Harned, Chairman  
A. S. Yantis  
James Longmire

Francis Henry named County Superintendent of the Poor "with authority to relieve the immediate necessities of such persons as are in a destitute condition."

Bounties listed for animal scalps: \$2.50, cougar; \$2.50, bear; \$1.50, wildcat.

1874

Benjamin Harned, Chairman  
James Longmire  
A. S. Yantis

Special election called July 10 to approve bonds to build railroad from Budd's inlet to Tenino.

February 1, 1875

A. J. Chambers, President  
Wm. H. Mitchell  
Wm. F. Ogle

1876

A. J. Chambers, President  
Wm. H. Mitchell  
Wm. F. Ogle

On December 28<sup>th</sup>, \$56.25 was allowed to Daniel R. Bigelow for six month's salary as county school superintendent.

February 5, 1877

A. J. Chambers, Chairman  
J. S. French  
John M. Swan

1878

Andrew J. Chambers, Chairman  
J. S. French  
John M. Swan

February 3, 1879

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| John M. Swan, Chairman | District 1 |
| James Longmire         | District 2 |
| Samuel Davenport       | District 3 |

1880

John M. Swan, Chairman  
James Longmire  
Samuel Davenport

Bounties were raised to \$5.00 for cougar scalps, \$4.00 for bears; and dropped to \$1.00 for wildcats.

February 7, 1881

John M. Swan, Chairman  
Joseph Gibson  
A. S. McKenzie

A motion to raise school taxes was discussed for four days in August and then "laid on the table."

1882

John M. Swan, Chairman  
A. S. McKenzie  
Joseph Gibson

Commissioners met for four sessions during the year.

February 5, 1883

A. S. McKenzie, Chairman  
J. S. Dobbins  
John L. Yantis



August 6, 1883

B. F. Ruth (appointed from Yelm precinct to replace A. S. McKenzie, resigned)

1884

J. S. Dobbins, Chairman  
John L. Yantis  
B. F. Ruth

First women's names drawn for grand jury and petit jury. None called, nor were any women named election officials.

(Contract let to highest bidder, \$5.00 per year, to purchase hay growing on court house lots.)

February 2, 1885

John L. Yantis, Chairman  
Geo. B. Capen  
A. B. Woodard

(C. B. Mann petitioned to let his cow graze on court house pasture at \$10.00 per year)

February 1, 1886

John L. Yantis, Chairman  
Geo. B. Capen  
Thomas Prather (appointed to replace A. B. Woodard)

(June 28, 1886 the county voted on Prohibition. It carried every precinct except Olympia, whose total negative vote defeated the measure: 649, no; 573, yes.)

February 7, 1887

Geo. B. Capen, Chairman  
John L. Yantis  
Thomas Prather

May 2, 1887

A. E. Young (replaced John L. Yantis - no reasons listed)

February 6, 1888

Geo. B. Capen, Chairman  
A. E. Young

Thomas Prather

February 4, 1889

Geo. B. Capen, Chairman  
A. E. Young  
Thomas Prather

April 25, 1889

Reece A. Brewer (replaced A. E. Young - no reason listed)

Commissioners appointed special judges and inspectors for May 14 election for delegates to state constitution convention. November 11, 1889, Washington became the 42<sup>nd</sup> state. Elected to represent Thurston County: Wm. O. Bush and Francis Rotch, Representatives; N. H. Owings, Senate - all Republicans.

February 3, 1890

Geo. B. Capen, Chairman  
Reece A. Brewer  
Thomas Prather

Australian ballot system used first time in county elections.

August 7, 1890

B. B. Smith (appointed to fill resignation of Geo. B. Capen)  
Reece A. Brewer, elected Chairman

(The number of commissioner meetings increased rapidly as plans were drawn for a new court house.)

January 12, 1891

Reece A. Brewer, Chairman  
T. C. Van Epps  
B. B. Smith

\$100,000 Court house bond finally approved March, 1891.

(Eighty-six days of commission meetings, many on Saturdays, letting contracts on new court house - which later became the state capitol building at Sixth and Washington Streets)

April 4, 1892

Reece A. Brewer, Chairman  
T. C. Van Epps  
B. B. Smith

(Eight faced tower clock contract let to a Portland firm over the bid from Talcott. Commission held 139 meeting days.)

January 9, 1893

Despite their vigilant efforts, all three 1892 Commissioners were replaced in the fall election. The outgoing Commissioners stated in their minutes: "The new board of county commissioners being present and the time having arrived to surrender to them the duties and responsibilities of this office, the affairs of the county are therefore placed in their hands. Monday, January 9, 1893."

New Commissioners:

W. C. Israel, Chairman  
Thomas Prather  
G. W. Osborn

1894

Thomas Prather  
W. C. Israel  
G. W. Osborn

(With the collapse of Western Washington economic boom, county, city and school warrants went begging for buyers. Commissioners leased the basement of the new court house for a post office.)

1895

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| F. S. Whalen             | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |
| G. W. Osborn             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Thomas Prather, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |

(Special county election was called to validate outstanding school warrants. Passed by the necessary 60%.)

1896

F. S. Whalen  
G. W. Osborn

Thomas Prather, Chairman

January 12, 1897

John Yantis  
G. W. Osborn, Chairman  
R. A. Brewer

1898

John L. Yantis  
G. W. Osborn, Chairman  
R. A. Brewer

January 9, 1899

John Byrne, Chairman  
John L. Yantis  
Geo. W. Mills

1900

John Byrne  
John L. Yantis  
Geo. W. Mills

January 14, 1901

John Byrne, Chairman  
George W. Bell  
Thomas Ismay

1902

John Bryne  
George W. Bell  
Thomas Ismay

January 12, 1903

H. M. Pierce, Chairman  
Geo. W. Bell  
Robt. M. Paton

October 17, 1903

H. A. Raymond (appointed to replace Bell, who resigned)

1904

H. M. Pierce, Chairman

Robert M. Paton

H. A. Raymond

January 9, 1905

Robert M. Paton

W. H. Mitchell, Chairman

P. J. O'Brien

1906

Robert M. Paton

W. H. Mitchell, Chairman

P. J. O'Brien

January 14, 1907

P. J. O'Brien, Chairman

William Wherrett

Robert E. Pickett

1908

P. J. O'Brien, Chairman

William Wherrett

Robert E. Pickett

(Commission meetings were typed for the first time instead of in the various handwriting of changing clerks!)

January 11, 1909

C. B. Mann, Chairman (Champion B. Mann)

Homer A. Raymond

James A. Van Eaton

1910

C. B. Mann, Chairman

Homer A. Raymond  
James A. Van Eaton

January 9, 1911

A. M. Rowe, Chairman  
J. A. Van Eaton  
T. J. McBratney

1912

A. M. Rowe  
J. A. Van Eaton  
t. J. McBratney

January 13, 1913

A. M. Rowe, Chairman  
T. J. McBratney  
S. C. Gibson

1914

A. M. Rowe  
T. J. Mcbratney  
S. C. Gibson

January, 1915

|                            |                          |          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| B. F. Littlejohn, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |          |
| A. M. Rowe                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |          |
| T. Ives Dodge              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Bordeaux |

1916

B. F. Littlejohn, Chairman  
A. M. Rowe  
T. Ives Dodge

January 8, 1917

|                         |                          |          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| J. C. Sams              | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia  |
| S. Y. Bennett           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Puget    |
| T. Ives Dodge, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Bordeaux |

1918

J. C. Sams  
S. Y. Bennett  
T. Ives Dodge, Chairman

January 13, 1919

|                      |                          |         |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| J. C. Sams, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| S. Y. Bennett        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Puget   |
| M. J. Neylon         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

1920

J. C. Sams, Chairman  
S. Y. Bennett  
M. J. Nevlon

1921

|               |                          |         |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------|
| A. M. Rowe    | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| S. Y. Bennett | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Puget   |
| M. J. Neylon  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

1922

A. M. Rowe  
S. Y. Bennett  
M. J. Neylon

1923

|                        |                          |         |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Fred G. Anderson       | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| M. F. Pugsley          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm    |
| M. J. Neylon, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

1924

Fred G. Anderson  
M. F. Pugsley  
M. J. Neylon, Chairman

1925

|                            |                          |         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Fred G. Anderson, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| M. F. Pugsley              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm    |
| J. B. Taylor               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

## 1926

Fred G. Anderson, Chairman  
M. F. Pugsley  
J. B. Taylor

## 1927

|                            |                          |         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Fred G. Anderson, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| M. F. Pugsley              | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm    |
| J. B. Taylor               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

## 1928

Fred G. Anderson, Chairman  
M. F. Pugsley  
J. B. Taylor

## January 19, 1929

|                        |                          |            |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Pearl Cogswell         | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia    |
| Frank A. Weir          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Hicks Lake |
| J. B. Taylor, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino     |

## 1930

Pearl Cogswell  
Frank A. Weir  
J. B. Taylor, Chairman

## 1931

|                        |                          |            |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Pearl F. Cogswell      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia    |
| Frank W. Weir          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Hicks Lake |
| J. B. Taylor, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino     |

## 1932

|                             |                          |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Pearl F. Cogswell, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| S. Y. Bennett               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Rt. 3   |
| T. H. Richards              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

## 1933

Pearl F. Cogswell



S. Y. Bennett, Chairman  
T. H. Richards

1934

|                   |                          |         |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Pearl F. Cogswell | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| S. Y. Bennett     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Rt. 3   |
| T. H. Richards    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino  |

January 14, 1935

|                           |                          |           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| S. Frederick Hansen       | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| Geo. M. Ashford           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | South Bay |
| Tom H. Richards, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Tenino    |

1936

S. Frederick Hansen  
Geo. M. Ashford  
Tom H. Richards, Chairman

January 11, 1937

|                               |                          |           |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| S. Frederick Hansen, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| Ray Cruikshank                | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm      |
| Frank N. Palmer               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

1938

|                               |                          |           |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| S. Frederick Hansen, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| Ray Cruikshank                | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm      |
| Frank N. Palmer               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

January 9, 1939

|                          |                          |           |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| John Maguire             | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| Ray Cruikshank, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm      |
| Frank N. Palmer          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

1940

John Maquire  
Ray Cruikshank, Chairman  
Frank N. Palmer

January 1941

|                           |                          |           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| John Maguire              | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| Ray Cruikshank            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Yelm      |
| Frank N. Palmer, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

1942

John Maquire  
Ray Cruikshank, Chairman  
Frank N. Palmer

January 11, 1943

|                        |                          |                     |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| John Maguire, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia             |
| Harry M. Livingston    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Rainier             |
| Joe C. Peters          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Olympia (West side) |

1944

John Maguire  
Harry M. Livingston  
Joe C. Peters, Chairman

January, 1945

|                               |                          |                     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Henry W. (Hank) Bolender      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia             |
| Harry M. Livingston, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Rainier             |
| Joe C. Peters                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Olympia (West side) |

1946

Hank Bolender  
Harry M. Livingston, Chairman  
Joe C. Peters

January, 1947

|                         |                          |                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Hank Bolender           | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia             |
| Harry M. Livingston     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Rainier             |
| Joe C. Peters, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Olympia (West side) |

1948

Hank Bolender, Chairman  
Harry M. Livingston

Joe C. Peters

January, 1949

|                         |                          |                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Hank Bolender, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia             |
| George Elder            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9             |
| George F. Yantis, Jr.   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Olympia (West side) |

1950

Hank Bolender, Chairman  
George Elder  
George G. Yantis, Jr.

January 8, 1951

|                        |                          |           |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Hank Bolender          | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| George Elder, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9   |
| Walter Mills           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

1952

Hank W. Bolender  
George Elder, Chairman  
Walter Mills

January, 1953

|                        |                          |           |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Hank Bolender          | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| George Elder           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9   |
| Walter Mills, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

1954

Hank W. Bolender  
George Elder  
Walter Mills, Chairman

January 10, 1955

|                         |                          |           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Hank Bolender, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| George Elder            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9   |
| Walter Mills            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

## 1956

|                         |                          |           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Hank Bolender, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| George Elder            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9   |
| Walter Mills            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

## January, 1957

|                         |                          |           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Hank Bolender, Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| George Elder            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9   |
| Walter Mills            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

## 1958

|                                       |                          |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Hank Bolender (Died February 5, 1958) |                          |                                       |
| Lyman Hopkins                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia (Appointed February 10, 1958) |
| George Elder                          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9                               |
| Walter Mills                          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester                             |

## January 12, 1959

|                        |                          |           |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia   |
| George Elder, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Route 9   |
| Walter Mills           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester |

## 1960

George F. Yantis, Jr.  
George Elder, Chairman  
Walter Mills

## January, 1961

Districts no longer listed in minutes

George F. Yantis, Jr.  
George Elder  
Walter Mills

## 1962

George F. Yantis, Jr.  
George Elder  
Walter Mills

## January 1963

George F. Yantis, Jr.

George Elder  
Walter Mills, Chairman

1964

George F. Yantis, Jr.  
George Elder  
Walter Mills, Chairman

January 11, 1965

|  |                          |                        |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr., Chairman                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia                |
| Everett Fourre   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey                  |
| Walter Mills   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Rochester              |
| Walter Mills died September 5, 1965 in Centralia Hospital. |                          |                        |
| Homer Hedgepath  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Littlerock (appointed) |

January 10, 1966

|                           |                          |            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia    |
| Everett Fourre            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey      |
| Homer Hedgepath, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Littlerock |

January 9, 1967

|                          |                          |         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.    | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| Everett Fourre, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey   |
| Wesley N. Estes          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Route 6 |

January 8, 1968

|                          |                          |         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.    | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| Everett Fourre, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey   |
| Wesley N. Estes          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Route 6 |

January 13, 1969

|                           |                          |         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| Ken Stevens               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey   |
| Wesley N. Estes, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Route 6 |

January 12, 1970

|                           |                          |         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| Kenneth Stevens, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey   |
| Wesley N. Estes           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Route 6 |

January 11, 1971

|                                 |                          |            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia    |
| Kenneth Stevens                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey      |
| Homer Hedgepath                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Littlerock |

1972

George F. Yantis, Jr., Chairman  
Kenneth J. Stevens  
Homer Hedgepath

January, 1973

|                                 |                          |            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia    |
| Kenneth Stevens                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey      |
| Homer Hedgepath                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Littlerock |

January 14, 1974

|                           |                          |            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr.     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia    |
| Kenneth Stevens           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey      |
| Homer Hedgepath, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Littlerock |

January 6, 1975

|                                 |                          |                     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia             |
| Kenneth Stevens                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey               |
| Marj Yung                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Route 6 (appointed) |

(Replaced Homer Hedgepath who decided late in December not to run for re-election)

FIRST WOMAN THURSTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

January 12, 1976

|                       |                          |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| George F. Yantis, Jr. | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| Kenneth Stevens       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District | Lacey   |
| Marj Yung, Chairman   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District | Route 6 |

January 10, 1977

|                                 |                          |         |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| George L. Barner, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District | Olympia |
| Del Pettit                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |         |
| Marj Yung                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |         |

January, 1978

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr. | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Del Pettit            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Marj Yung, Chairman   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1979

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Del Pettit             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| W. (Woody) D. Anderson | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1980

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Del Pettit             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| W. (Woody) D. Anderson | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 7, 1981

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.       | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser (second woman) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| W. (Woody) D. Anderson      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1982

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| W. (Woody) D. Anderson | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1983

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1984

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 7, 1985

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr. | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Les Eldridge, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |
|------------------------|--------------------------|

January, 1986

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 6, 1987

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1988

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr., Chairman | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Karen Fraser                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 3, 1989

|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.         | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell (third woman) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge, Chairman        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1990

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge, Chairman | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1991

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr.     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell, Chairman | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January, 1992

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| George L. Barner, Jr., Chairman  | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Les Eldridge (resigned in January 1992)                                |                          |
| Linda Medcalf (appointed February 3, 1992; resigned November 17, 1992) |                          |
| Dick Nichols (appointed to complete term November 18, 1992)            |                          |



January 4, 1993

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell, Chairman  
Dick Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 1994

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell  
Dick Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 1995

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell  
Dick Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 1996

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell  
Dick Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 1997

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell  
Dick Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 1998

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell  
Dick Nichols

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 1999

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell  
Kevin O'Sullivan

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

January, 2000

Judy Wilson  
Diane Oberquell

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Kevin O'Sullivan | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |
|------------------|--------------------------|

January, 2001

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Kevin O'Sullivan | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2002

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Kevin O'Sullivan | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2003

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bob McLeod      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2004

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bob McLeod      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2005

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bob McLeod      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2006

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bob McLeod      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2007

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bob McLeod      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2008

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe     | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Diane Oberquell | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bob McLeod      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2009

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Sandra Romero    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Karen Valenzuela | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2010

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Sandra Romero    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Karen Valenzuela | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2011

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Sandra Romero    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Karen Valenzuela | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2012

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Sandra Romero    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Karen Valenzuela | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2013

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe      | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Sandra Romero    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Karen Valenzuela | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |

January 2015

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Cathy Wolfe   | 1 <sup>st</sup> District |
| Sandra Romero | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District |
| Bud Blake     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> District |



## SUMMARY

One hundred and two persons have been elected or appointed a Thurston County Commissioners as of January 4, 1993: 97 men and five women.

The woman have been:

|                 |                             |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Marj Yung       | elected one term (4 years)  | 1975-1978 |
| Karen Fraser    | elected two terms (8 years) | 1981-1988 |
| Diane Oberquell | elected two terms (8 years) | 1989-1996 |
| Linda Medcalf   | appointed part of one year  | 1992      |
| Judy Wilson     | elected first term          | 1993-1996 |

Numerical Order:

Linda Medcalf was the 100<sup>th</sup> person elected or appointed, but the 99<sup>th</sup> person to serve (Wm. James, elected in 1871, died before taking oath).

Dick Nichols (replacing Medcalf November 18, 1992 following his election) is actually the 100<sup>th</sup> Commissioners sworn in to serve.

Judy Wilson is the 102<sup>nd</sup> person to be elected or appointed and the 101<sup>st</sup> to serve as a Thurston County Commissioner.

Longest Service:

George F. Yantis, Jr., 1<sup>st</sup> District      First Term: 1949-1950 (two years); one two year term, four 4-year terms, 1959-1970 (18 years) for a total of twenty years.

George Elder, 2<sup>nd</sup> District      Completed four consecutive terms 1949-1964 for sixteen years.

George L. Barner, 1<sup>st</sup> District      Completed four consecutive terms 1977-1992. Started as Chairman and ended as Chairman. Served 16 years.

Walter Mills, 2<sup>nd</sup> District (Rochester)      Elected four terms starting 1951, died in 1965.  
Served 15 1/2 years.

Henry "Hank" Bolender, 1<sup>st</sup> District      Elected four terms starting 1945, died February 1958. Served 13 1/2 years.