

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC  
STATE CONVENTION: HELD AT  
HARRISBURG, MARCH 4TH, 1856**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649379873

Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention: Held at Harrisburg, March 4th, 1856 by James B. Sheridan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES B. SHERIDAN**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC  
STATE CONVENTION: HELD AT  
HARRISBURG, MARCH 4TH, 1856**



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA

Democratic State Convention,

HELD AT HARRISBURG,

MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 1856

REPORTED BY JAMES B. SHERIDAN.

---

PHILADELPHIA:

WM. RICE, PENNSYLVANIAN OFFICE, PRINTER.

1856.

## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

---

IN pursuance of the call of the Democratic State Central Committee, the Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention for appointing Delegates to the Cincinnati Convention, and also for nominating candidates for Canal Commissioner, Auditor-General, and Surveyor-General, assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, on the morning of the 4th day of March, 1856.

Long before the appointed time of meeting, the hall was crowded with Delegates and others, who vied with each other in their expressions of regard and enthusiasm for Pennsylvania's favorite son. It was with feelings of delight that we saw these men—the old men and the young—those who have heretofore had other preferences, but now ardently for Mr. Buchanan,—the representatives of the Democratic masses of our State, and fresh from their midst, so unanimous in expressing the sentiments of their constituents.

At ten o'clock, the Convention was called to order by JAMES F. JOHNSTON, Esq., Chairman of the State Central Committee.

On motion of Mr. PIELER, of Bradford, Gen. J. P. BRAWLEY, of Crawford, was appointed temporary Chairman, and Messrs. R. BIDDLE ROBERTS, of Alleghany, and B. E. SLOAN, of Erie, Secretaries.

The following is a list of the Delegates to the Convention:

## SENATORIAL DELEGATES.

1. Philadelphia City—F. C. Frazier, C. McGrath.
2. Philadelphia County—J. D. Campbell, Wm. Lamb, G. R. Berrill.
3. Montgomery—Ed. Sauerbwait.
4. Chester and Delaware—O. E. Strickland.
5. Berks—James Hegerman.
6. Bucks—F. Vessant.
7. Lancaster and Lebanon—James L. Reynolds, W. W. Murray.
8. Dauphin and Northumberland—Jacob Leisewitz.
9. Northampton and Lehigh—M. C. Hanzam.
10. Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne—Lafayette Westbrook, of Pike.
11. Adams and Franklin—Wilson Reiley.
12. York—John Rankin.
13. Cumberland and Perry—John Smart.
14. Centre, Lycoming, Clinton, and Sullivan—Wm. F. Packer.
15. Blair, Cambria, and Huntingdon—Adolphus Patterson.
16. Luzerne, Montour, and Columbia—E. B. Wright.
17. Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming—J. F. Means.
18. Tioga, Potter, McKean, Elk, Clearfield, Jefferson, and Forest—De Witt C. Jamca.
19. Mifflin, Venango, and Warren—J. F. Jamca.
20. Erie and Crawford—Vincent Phelps.
21. Butler, Beaver, and Lawrence—Lewis Z. Mitchell.
22. Allegheny—R. Eddie Roberts, J. A. Gibson.
23. Washington and Greene—J. A. J. Buchanan.
24. Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton—J. S. Robinson.
25. Armstrong, Indiana, and Clarion—Charles J. Leadenham.
26. Juniata, Martin, and Union—Rexford Keller.
27. Westmoreland and Fayette—Wesley Frost.
28. Schuylkill—Clonard Foster.

## REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES.

- Adams, 1—H. J. Sahley.
- Allegheny, 5—S. W. Black, Charles Barnett, Henry McCullough, Matthew Harbeson, P. C. Shannon.
- Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson, 3—W. Easton, Seth Clover, David Barclay.
- Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence, 3—Gen. Charles Carter, John N. Purviance, David Tibball.
- Bedford, Fulton, and Cambria, 2—George H. Spang, Richard White.
- Berks, 4—Jacob Wallace, H. L. Miller, G. W. Beas, W. N. Potreiiger.
- Blair and Huntingdon, 2—Thos. Snyder, Thomas P. Campbell.
- Bradford, 2—V. E. Pickett, W. H. Peck.
- Bucks, 3—Paul Applebaugh, W. Harris, Jonathan Ely.
- Carbon and Lehigh, 2—A. G. Brodhead, J. D. Stiles.
- Centre, 1—Samuel Struchekes.
- Chester, 3—J. Hodgson, J. D. Evans, Ralph Marsh.
- Clearfield, McKean, and Elk, 1—J. L. Gillis.
- Clinton, Lycoming, and Potter, 2—John Fier, Miles White.
- Columbia and Montour, 1—J. C. Montgomery.
- Crawford, 2—J. P. Brawley, W. Kerr.

Cumberland, 2—E. Corman, Moses Bricker, Thomas M. Biddle.  
 Dauphin, 2—Samuel Bigler, O. Zaret.  
 Delaware, 1—John P. James.  
 Erie, 2—Wilson Laird, B. F. Swan.  
 Fayette and Westmoreland, 4—J. L. Dawson, Robert Given, Wm. Ross, E. J. Koeman.  
 Franklin, 3—G. W. Brewer, J. M. Cooper.  
 Greene, 1—Jesse Lazear.  
 Indiana, 1—Adam Lewis.  
 Lebanon, 1—W. M. Breslin.  
 Lancaster, 3—Dr. James Cushman, H. S. Magraw, Dr. Samuel Parker, James S. M'Nulton, Abraham Peters.  
 Luzerne, 2—Dr. D. H. Throop, Samuel G. Turner.  
 Mercer, Venango, and Warren, 3—James Hazleton, Arnold Fluener, G. W. Schofield.  
 Mifflin, 1—Wm. Gilmore.  
 Monroe and Pike, 1—Cesar Noh.  
 Montgomery, 3—Philly S. Gerhart, John C. Smith, Jacob Jacoby.  
 Northampton, 2—J. M. Foster, John Davis.  
 Northumberland, 3—David B. Montgomery.  
 Perry, 1—James Black.  
 Philadelphia City, 4—Charles Brady, Thomas Ellis, Andrew O'Hara, John M'Combs.  
 Philadelphia County, 11—Thomas Corgan, Edward Wiler, P. W. Donogh, Andrew Noble, Geo. W. Warner, F. McDemick, A. Brown, John Crawford, Emanuel Street, James P. Niemi, John K. Hassinger.  
 Schuylkill, 2—Ed. Keris, M. Cushman.  
 Somerset, 1—John D. Ruddy.  
 Susquehanna, Sullivan, and Wyoming, 3—W. C. Ward, Dr. J. V. Smith.  
 Tioga, 1—H. A. Guertzy.  
 Union, Juniata, and Snyder, 1—A. P. Lamb.  
 Wayne, 1—F. M. Craik.  
 Washington, 2—Wm. Montgomery, Col. Wm. Hopkins.  
 York, 3—Edie Patterson, Wm. H. Welsh, Stewart Anderson.

After disposing of the contested seats of the senatorial delegates for Carbon, Monroe, and Pike by admitting Mr. Lafayette Westbrook, and for Somerset, Bedford, and Fulton by admitting Mr. J. S. Robinson, and of the contest for delegate from the representative district composed of Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming, by admitting Dr. J. V. Smith, of Wyoming, the Convention, on motion of Mr. Purviance, of Butler, directed the Chairman to appoint a committee of one from each Senatorial District to nominate officers for a permanent organization.

The Chairman appointed the following gentlemen as a committee on permanent organization:



## Dist.

1. J. D. Campbell.
2. John M'Combs.
3. Ed. Satterthwait.
4. J. Hodgson.
5. C. W. Esser.
6. Franklin Vanzant.
7. Jas. Gashman.
8. Jacob Leisenring.
9. John Davis.
10. A. G. Brodhead.
11. J. M. Cooper.
12. Edie Patterson, York.
13. John Stewart.
14. John Fica.

## Dist.

15. A. Patterson, Blair.
16. J. G. Montgomery.
17. W. C. Ward.
18. De Witt C. James.
19. J. Y. James.
20. V. Pbalga.
21. J. N. Purviance.
22. S. W. Black.
23. W. Montgomery.
24. Geo. H. Spang.
25. Chas. L. Lamberton.
26. A. P. Lusk.
27. Robt. Green.
28. Clement Foster.

Mr. Hopkins, of Washington, stated to the Convention, that his name had been mentioned by a number of gentlemen in connection with the office of President of the Convention, and having determined not to permit his name to be used in that connection, he felt it due to those gentlemen, as well as to himself, to make a public avowal of that determination.

He did it that the utmost harmony might prevail, and to this end he hoped the Convention would start right. (Applause.)

On motion, the Convention then adjourned until three o'clock, to afford the Committee on Permanent Organization an opportunity of consulting together.

## FOR PRESIDENT,

Hon. HENDRICK B. WRIGHT, of Luzerne Co.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS,

Thomas Gorges, Wm. Lumb, P.E.C.	Dr. B. H. Throop, Luzerne.
Phily S. Gerhard, Montgomery.	John F. Meares, Bradford.
John P. James, Delaware.	David Barclay, Jefferson.
Jacob Wishtine, Berks.	G. W. Schofield, Warren.
Paul Applebanga, Bucks.	Wilson Lara, Erie.
Abraham Peters, Lancaster.	David Tidball, Lawrence.
Samuel Rigler, Dauphin.	Henry McCullough, Allegheny.
Mifflin Hamann, Lehigh.	Jesse Lazear, Greene.
F. M. Cress, Wayne.	John D. Ruddy, Somerset.
H. J. Stahley, Adams.	Seib Clover, Clarion.
John Rankin, York.	Reuben C. Kessler, Union.
James Black, Perry.	Wesley Frost, Fayette.
Dr. Samuel Stronacker, Centre.	Edward Kerns, Schuylkill.
Theo. Snyder, Blair.	

## SECRETARIES.

B. F. Sloan, Erie.	Lewis Z. Mitchell, Butler.
Edward J. Keenan, Westmoreland.	Wm. K. Potzeiger, Berks.
D. W. C. James, Porter.	Lafayette Westbrook, Pike.
Wm. M. Breslin, Lebanon.	Chas. McGrath, Philadelphia City.
George R. Berrill, Philadelphia.	Matthew Haddenon, Alleghany.
Jno. M. Cooper, Franklin.	Moses Bicker, Cumberland.

On motion, the report was unanimously adopted, and Gen. Wm. F. Packer and Col. Wm. Hopkins were appointed to conduct the President elect to the chair.

On taking the chair, Mr. Wright said:

Gentlemen of the Convention—I return you my thanks for this manifestation of your partiality. I shall endeavor to discharge the important duties you have assigned to me with fidelity; and it may not be improper in me at this time to state what I regard as discharging these duties with fidelity. We come here to-day, gentlemen, from all parts of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—and great she is—influenced by circumstances under which a convention never before assembled in Pennsylvania. We come here as a unit—we come here undivided—we come here to carry out a single purpose, and that purpose is to present, through this Commonwealth, to the nation at large, a man who is in every way qualified to discharge the duties of the first position in the Republic, and who in all probability will occupy it before another convention shall assemble here. (Great applause.) Need I say to you that the name of that distinguished man is James Buchanan? (Applause.) A man, who at this time, not only Pennsylvania, but the whole nation, is ready to honor! (Renewed applause.) Heretofore it has been said that Mr. Buchanan was presented by the politicians of Pennsylvania. To-day, gentlemen, he is borne to the Capitol of your State on the shoulders of the people. (Cheers.) No politician in Pennsylvania, as a politician, has had an exclusive hand in bringing about this great, this mighty, this signal triumph in our Commonwealth. Mr. Buchanan, this day, in Pennsylvania, is enshrined in the hearts of her people. (Applause.) He is stronger to-day in Pennsylvania than he ever was before; he is stronger to-day in the Nation than he ever was before. (Cheers.) Having met here for the purpose of selecting delegates who will cast a unanimous vote for this man, whom we

delight to honor, in the Convention which is to meet in Cincinnati, in June next, it becomes important that no man should be intrusted with the message to be carried there, unless he be a true man in every particular; as for myself, I am frank to acknowledge that I know no second choice. (Applause.) I have but one choice, and that choice the distinguished man of my own native State. What is to be the effect of our proceedings to-day? Before you shall adjourn to-night, the unanimity with which this Convention has been organized—the moral grandeur and power presented here—goes over the wires to all parties of this country, will carry with it into the public mind elsewhere, a conviction which we hope will make the proceedings of the Cincinnati Convention a unit. Also, in presenting our distinguished son, let us, gentlemen, in sending our delegation to the Convention at Cincinnati, intrust them with a platform worthy of the great State of Pennsylvania, and worthy of the great man that is to stand upon it when they get there. Let a platform go with that delegation National in its character—let it not be circumscribed by narrow, selfish, and local interests. Let it be a platform, wide as our country, from ocean to ocean, that every Democrat throughout the land may join hands with us in support of it. In that platform, which we are to intrust with our delegation, let us concede nothing to the South, but let us do the South equal and evenhanded justice—that is all they ask, and that is what we are willing to give. Embodied in that platform, let there be the great principle of the age, of the popular sovereignty, as embraced in the Kansas and Nebraska bill. (Terrific applause.) Let there be embraced in that platform this great principle—taxation only to meet the wants of a well-conducted government, sufficient to defray all of its expenses with a strict regard to national economy. (Applause.) Let there be embraced also in that platform, which these gentlemen shall carry there, a war of extermination against that sect or party of men opposed to religious toleration in this land. (Applause.) Let there be no dark spot on this glorious platform—let it be illuminated by reason, and no dark lantern—let every portion of it stand out in “bold relief,” and let the gentlemen from Pennsylvania who carry to Cincinnati the ark of our national covenant, take one they may be proud of when they get there with it, and be cheered