

## EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CITY'S INCORPORATION

**1888 -- TERRITORIAL INCORPORATION ATTEMPTED** - Upon reaching a population of 1,000 in 1888, area residents prepared incorporation papers for Mount Vernon. The territorial district court judge, Hanford, claimed the Territorial Community Incorporation Law was unconstitutional and would not sign the Mount Vernon incorporation papers.

**MARCH 25, 1889 -- INCORPORATION PETITION PREPARED** - Citizens held a town meeting March 25, 1889, and elected a board of trustees including Mr. E. G. English, Mr. C. D. Kimball, Mr. J. B. Moody, Mr. Jasper Gates and Mr. G. E. Hartson. This board prepared incorporation petition papers supported with citizen signatures. Judge Hanford again refused to sign the incorporation papers; and citizens were forced to wait for Washington to become a state on November 11, 1889.

**FEBRUARY 11, 1890 -- INCORPORATION PETITION PREPARED AGAIN** - Another public meeting was conducted to pursue incorporation February 11, 1890. This meeting elected a new board of trustees including Mr. H. P. Downs, chairman and Mr. G. E. Hartson, secretary. Other trustees elected were: Mr. E. G. English, Mr. Otto Klement, Mr. J. B. Moody, Mr. Jasper Gates and Captain D. F. Decatur. This group produced an incorporation petition and circulated it for citizen signatures. The new incorporation petition contained more than 100 citizen signatures and was presented by Captain D. F. Decatur, Mrs. Ida Priest, Mr. J. N. Anable, Mr. J. F. St. John and Mr. V. E. Campbell to the Skagit County Commissioners and to District Court Judge Winn. The commissioners and the judge approved the petition.

**JUNE 27, 1890 -- GENERAL ELECTION HELD** - With the incorporation petition approved, June 27, 1890, was set for the first Mount Vernon election. The incorporation election question was carried by a vote of 87 for and 25 against; and at the same time citizens elected the first Mount Vernon Mayor and City Council.

**JUNE 30, 1890 - GENERAL ELECTION CANVASSED** - Skagit County Commissioners canvassed the June 27, 1890, election on June 30, 1890. Commissioners ordered the area incorporated into a city of the fourth class under the name of Mount Vernon and declared a Mayor and five City Councilmen elected.

**JULY 1, 1890 -- ELECTION CERTIFIED** - On July 1, 1890, Skagit County Auditor, Mr. H. P. Downs certified the election and Skagit County Commissioner's actions in the *Skagit County Record*, book 1, page 563; and forwarded the incorporation papers to Mr. Allen Weir, the State of Washington Secretary of State.

**JULY 6, 1890 -- ELECTION FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE** - The incorporation petition, election and validation were received and filed July 5, 1890, on page 3, book 1, the State of Washington Register of Incorporated Cities and Towns (for \$5.00) by Mr. Weir.

Mayor: Mr. C. D. Kimball, Councilmen: Mr. J. B. Moody, Mr. G. E. Hartson, Mr. L. R. Martin, Mr. M. McNamara, Mr. William Murdock, Treasurer: Mr. V. E. Campbell. Mayor Kimball and the Council appointed Mr. F. G. Pickering, City Clerk; Mr. F. E. Pape, Police Judge; and Mr. E. H. Vaughn, City Marshal. Mr. Hartson acted as Clerk for the meeting. Council meetings were scheduled weekly on Wednesday evenings. Interestingly, Council continues to meet on Wednesday's to this very day!