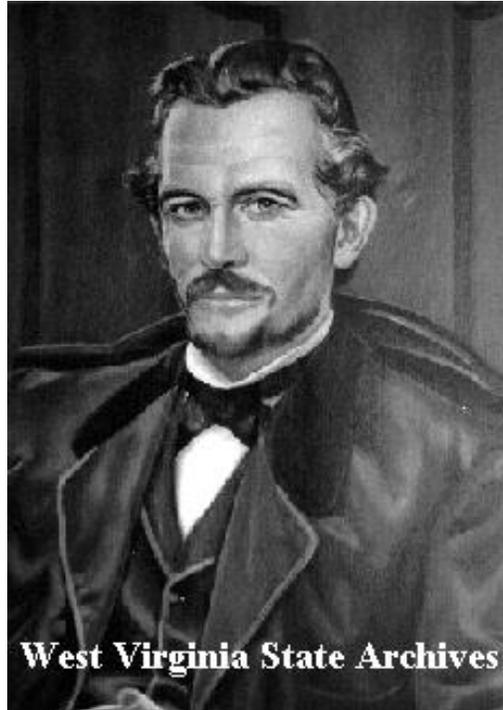


**ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY
NOVEMBER 29**

William Erskine Stevenson, who served as governor of West Virginia from 1869 to 1871, died in Parkersburg on November 29, 1883.

CSO: SS.8.22, SS.8.23, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (*William Erskine Stevenson Papers, Ar1724*)

1. What holiday is Governor William E. Stevenson encouraging West Virginians to observe?
2. What does Governor Stevenson suggest that the holiday removes? Encourages?
3. Where was the state capitol of West Virginia located in 1869?

Think Critically: Does Governor Steven indirectly allude to the Civil War in his proclamation? Were there still sectional tensions in the years that followed the Civil War? How has Thanksgiving changed since 1869? Has the holiday become more secular?

By the Governor of West Virginia,
A Proclamation.

THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,)
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,)
WHEELING, October 22, 1869. }

THE President of the United States having designated THURSDAY, the EIGHTEENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to Almighty God; and fully concurring in this matter with the Chief Executive of the Nation, I, William E. Stevenson, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby cordially recommend to the people of this State that they observe said day in accordance with the President's proclamation; that the different religious denominations assemble in their several places of public worship, and engage in such devotional exercises as may be suitable to the occasion; and that the citizens generally throughout the State observe the day in such manner as to them may seem most appropriate.

The people of our young and growing Commonwealth have many reasons to be thankful to the Great Author and Preserver of life. The year that is closing has witnessed, uninterrupted peace within our borders. The general health has been good beyond that of former years; and our great industrial interests have been prosperous in a remarkable degree.

It is most earnestly suggested to all to so improve the occasion that it may result in the increase of kind and fraternal feeling among the people of the entire State, and in removing from amongst us, as far as possible, political, religious and neighborhood animosities—to encourage social and family reunions, which are always sources if innocent pleasure and domestic felicity; to relieve the wants of the helpless, afflicted and destitute, and above all, in leading us at all times and under all circumstances to express gratitude to Him who is the source of every good and perfect gift here, and who has implanted within us the hope of happiness in that life which is immortal.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be affixed at the City of Wheeling, this twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty nine, and of the State the seventh.

WILLIAM E. STEVENSON.

By the Governor:

J. M. PIPES,

Secretary of the State.