

On this date, 84 years ago, Yakima county was officially created and its predecessor, Ferguson county, passed into limbo. The original Yakima county took in the whole sweep of the valley but even so its population numbered only about 3,620 whites. Since its establishment the county has increased in population by 273 times though Kittitas and Benton counties have been taken from the original vast empire. In 1865 no pioneer, however daring, could have dreamed of a city such as Yakima nor could he have imagined a time when a single highway leading into Yakima would carry, in but a single day, more people than there were settlers in 1865. It's good to know that some traits, such as the zeal to make the future better than the past, have not changed. It's guaranty that 84 years hence in the year 2033 Yakima will undoubtedly be far better than the wisest among us can envision now. -----The Yakima Republic, Jan. 10, '49 (S.I. Anthon)

1949  
84  

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1865  

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Jan 10

They came from far and wide to attend the meeting in the Commercial club rooms in the Masonic building last evening, called 8900 for a discussion of the proposed county division plans. Riverside county as proposed, Simcoe county as suggested and Yakima county as she is were represented by by orators of reknown and ability. Badinage, repartee and good natured raillery and in one case the ectort courteous were brought into play all of which made the meeting a very interesting one and at times most exciting.

Ira P. Englehart called the meeting to order shortly after 8 o'clock and appointed H.R. Watson as secretary. From that moment for nearly two hours there was not a minute when any person felt lonesome

After the smoke had cleared it was found that the gist of the action taken was the passage of the following resolution which had been offered by H.J. Snively.

"Resolved that it be declared the sentiment of the meeting that there be no division of Yakima county at the present time...".  
The Yakima Herald, Feb. 14, 1913.



On July 30 at 2 o'clock as per call a mass meeting represented by something over 100 people from nearly all parts of the county met at Rich's hall in Prosser.

Mabton was represented by George Davenport and Sam Fowler. Sunnyside by a delegation selected at a mass meeting of citizens of Sunnyside consisting of James Henderson, William Hitchcock, H.H. Wende, Joseph Lannin, Joseph Kunz, J.B. George, A.D. Cafferty, F.H. McCoy and H.D. Jory. M.D. Clarke was a minority delegate.

Kiona was represented by M.W. Smith, Harry VanHorn, N. Travis, W.L. Dimmick and Joseph Long. Prosser by a full delegation of citizens and Rattlesnake by F. Sampson.

Hon. Nelson Rich presided over the meeting and was appointed apparent from the beginning that a unanimous feeling for county division prevailed, provided the boundary line could be decided upon.

A committee consisting of one delegate from each precinct was appointed to define the boundary lines for the proposed new county and after being out over an hour brought in a report as follows:

Beginning at a point in the middle of the Columbia river where the range line between 21 and 22 crosses the river, thence north six miles to the first standard parallel, west on first standard parallel to the range line, thence north on range line between 20 and 21 to the north line of 5-20 and 21 to the north line of 5-20, thence west on said line to Pine Creek, thence following Pine creek for a natural boundary to a point where said Pine creek crosses the range line between townships 19 and 20, thence north on said line to the south line of the Yakima Indian reservation, thence east along said line to the range line between 20 and 21.





Boosters for county division have called a convention to be held in Toppenish May 17 . The convention will be attended by lower valley delegates who are interested in having Yakima county divided by act of the state legislature into two counties, the line of division running through Union Gap.

These delegates are to be chosen at caucuses to be held May 11 in the precincts below the Gap- Yakima Republic, May 6, 1910.

The movement to divide this county does not meet with unanimous approval among those who are supposed to be urging division is indicated by the statement made Thursday by Charles S. Bilger of Wapato. Mr. Bilger is one of the best known citizens in that town and knows if anyone does the prevailing sentiment there.

"It is a mistake to suppose that Wapato wants division," he said. "Wapato is well content to leave things as they are and is not advocating division. The general sentiment there is opposed to division."

In view of the fact that Wapato was named as the prospective seat of the new county this assertion from Mr. Bilger as to its feelings in the matter discredits to a large measure the strength of the movement--The Yakima Republic, May 6, 1910.

Sunnyside  
County division

Sunnyside, Dec. 18-- The delegate convention to consider and formulate plans looking toward the county division met pursuant to call in the Odd Fellow's Hall at 1 p.m. and organized by the election of F.H. Gloyd of Prosser, chairman and H.E. Perrin of Sunnyside, secretary.

..The number of delegates present at an earlier meeting, Dec. 3 included: Sunnyside 10; Bedrock 2; Prosser 8; Klona, 5; Mabton, 8; Alder Creek 1; Mattlesnake 3; Patterson postoffice 1; east half Willah precinct 6; Klickitat 6--total number of delegates present 40. Based on one delegate for every 20 votes and fraction major fraction thereof cast by each precinct at the last election, also one delegate at large from each precinct--for the purpose of framing a suitable bill for establishment of the new county.

It was voted that a committee of three, consisting of Attorneys C.E. Woods and H. Wende of Sunnyside and J.E. Moore of Prosser be empowered to draw up a bill for county division on the lines described in the call for the convention and report at as early a date as possible, that the same be presented to the legislature of the state, carried 37 ayes, nays 6.

Upon motion of Dr. Angus it was voted that the chairman appoint a committee of five to look after the preparation and securing the signing of petitions to the legislature. The group adjourned on motion of Jos. Lannin.--Tajima Herald, Dec. 23, 1902.



Granger, June 21--A packed convention discussed county division with a strong sentiment in favor of asking for a division of Yakima county at the next meeting of the legislature, at Granger today on the occasion of the meeting of a convention on county division composed of 72 delegates from the various sections of Yakima county lying below what is commonly known as the Union Gap, a community known as the Union Gap point about six miles below southeast of North Yakima which delegates were selected by the various delegates from granges, taxpayers' leagues, commercial clubs and civic bodies.

Three plans of division were submitted to the meeting, one by delegates from Mabton who proposed to include in the new county a strip of Klickitat county 27 miles in width running east to the Columbia river, one by the delegates from Sunnyside who proposed a county comprising about 15 sections with Sunnyside almost in the immediate center thereof, and a third by delegates from Toppenish who suggested that the boundaries of the new county be the Antanum hills and the Rattlesnake hills on the west, north and east and Klickitat county on the southwest which contains a territory commonly known as the Granger basin.

The Toppenish plan included a mile more than one-half of the present county with a population of 16,000 people and an assessed valuation of \$14,000,000. The Sunnyside plan included an area of 15 townships with an assessed valuation of \$10,000,000 and a population of 12,000. The population and valuation of the area proposed by Mabton was not stated.

Yakima Herald, June 26, 1912.

County Division  
Newspapers

The Prosser Record came out boldly in favor of reopening the question of county division.

The Courier idea is that the time is not ripe for division and this section cannot be depended on for any assistance in the matter-Kenewick Courier, July, 1902.