

No. R-532. Joint resolution authorizing the state of Vermont to accept a reprint of an engraving of Thaddeus Stevens for the state house art collection.

(J.R.H.33)

Offered by: Representative Toll of Danville

Whereas, Thaddeus Stevens was born in Danville in 1792 and attended the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College, from which he graduated in 1814, and

Whereas, a lawyer by profession, he was sworn into the Pennsylvania Bar and in 1816 started a law practice in the town of Gettysburg, which would become intimately associated with the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, a matter of passionate concern for Thaddeus Stevens, and

Whereas, he served in the Pennsylvania legislature and later in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1853 and returned for a second tenure of enormous historical significance from 1859 until his death in 1868, and

Whereas, as a Radical Republican, Thaddeus Stevens was one of the first members of Congress to propose, during the Civil War, that slaves be emancipated, and

Whereas, after the Civil War, he advocated strict federal supervision of the former confederacy states to assure that the newly freed slaves were assured their rights, and

Whereas, legislation he sponsored would eventually become the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution enshrining the rights of the newly freed slaves, and

Whereas, the Vermont state house has lacked a portrait of this distinguished native son, statesman, and unyielding abolitionist, and

Whereas, at the urging of Civil War historian Howard Coffin, the Danville Historical Society and the Danville Chamber of Commerce endeavored to locate and acquire a suitable portrait of Thaddeus Stevens for permanent display in our state's capitol, and

Whereas, the search led to a 2002 reprint of a middle 19th century engraving of Thaddeus Stevens, which will officially be presented to the state of Vermont for inclusion in the state house art collection on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at a ceremony in the Cedar Creek Room, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly authorizes the state of Vermont to accept a reprint of an engraving of Thaddeus Stevens for inclusion in the state house art collection, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the office of the state curator, the Danville Historical Society, and the Danville Chamber of Commerce.