



Albuquerque Historical Society

[HOME](#)[PROGRAMS](#)[ACCOLADES](#)[FOR EDUCATORS](#)[SPEAKERS BUREAU](#)[SOURCE DOCUMENTS](#)[ABOUT](#)

Enters the Sisterhood of States

This article describes the announcement of statehood for New Mexico. The article also mentions the inauguration of new governor McDonald on January 15, 1912. What statehood means is also summarized.

Document Type:	Newspaper Article
Historical Event:	Statehood (1912)
Sub Event:	US Government Role
Origin:	Hope Penasco Valley Press
Date:	January 12, 1912
Author:	Not Cited
Permission:	Public Domain
Contributor:	Roger Zimmerman

ENTERS THE SISTER- HOOD OF STATES



PRESIDENT TAFT SIGNS THE PROCLAMATION OF STATEHOOD

Four members of the president's cabinet, the two congressmen elect from New Mexico--Ferguson and Curry--a dozen prominent citizens from the new state, several white house employes and three photographers witnessed the ceremony, which took place in the president's private office.

New Mexico has had 100 governors as a principality of Mexico and Spain and a territory of the United States. It has been a territory since March, 1851, although it was declared United States territory by Gen. Kearney in a proclamation issued at Santa Fe, August 1, 1846. A part of what is now New Mexico had already come into the union with the admission of Texas in 1845. Almost all the rest of the new state came into the union as American territory February 2 1848, following the Mexican war, when Mexico ceded all of Arizona and is now the western part of New Mexico.

A little strip of territory was added to the southwestern part of the territory through the Gadsden purchase in 1853. The act of congress conferring a territorial government upon New Mexico was passed September 9, 1850, and the law was put into operation the following March. The territory of New Mexico then embraced not only all of the present state of New Mexico, but all that is Arizona as well.

Many of the 260 newly elected county officials as well as other officials will not wait for the day of inauguration of governor McDonald, January 15, but will take their oath of office immediately and assume their duties under the state.

Flags are flying and committees are already working feverishly to make inauguration day a holiday in celebration of statehood.

William C. McDonald will be inaugurated governor at noon Monday, January 15, and will be sworn in by chief justice William H. Pope.

All the arrangements for the inauguration have been made and it is to eclipse in splendor all former occasions of that kind.

While governor McDonald will be sworn in at the hall of representatives at the capitol, the main festivities will take place in the historic Palace of the Governors, 303 years old, which has been occupied consecutively by just 100 governors under Spanish, Mexican Indian and territorial rule, McDonald being the 101st and the first state governor.

WHAT STATEHOOD MEANS

We will now have our own officials.

Representation in the senate will be of great benefit.

Statehood will attract attention to New Mexico and her possibilities.

There is no question that New Mexico will now enter upon an era of prosperity.

It marks the beginning of the greatest forward impetus New Mexico has ever experienced.

Will help business, will bring in capital, and induce big investors who were afraid of the territorial form of government.

It has been the experience of every territory that an unparall period of prosperity follows its admission to statehood.

It means more confidence, more money, more people, more farming, more mining, more railroad building, more business for everybody.

It will change the attitude of outside people and outside capital. Within a year there will be a marked change for the better along all lines of development.