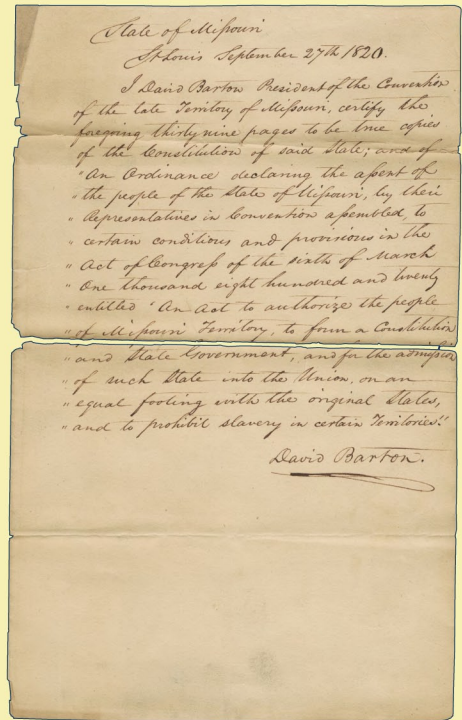
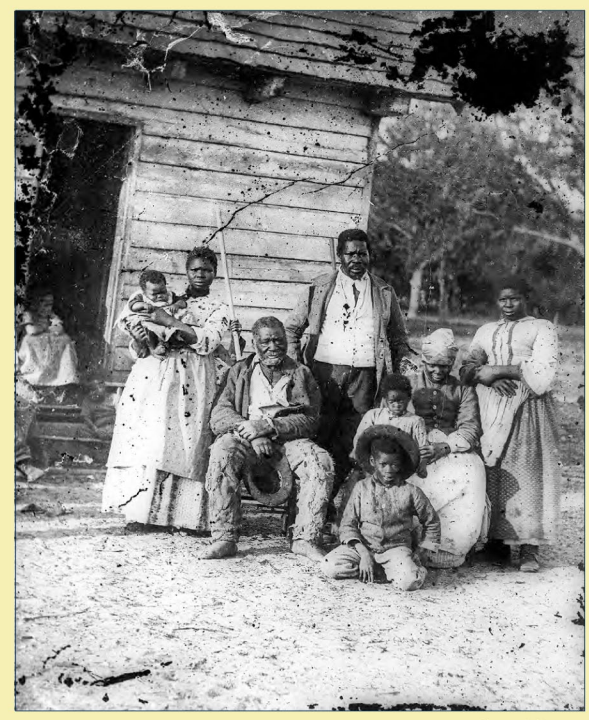
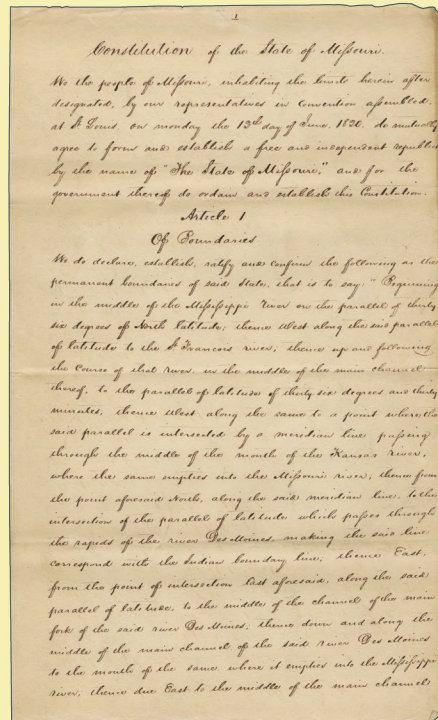


SLAVERY IN THE 1820 CONSTITUTION

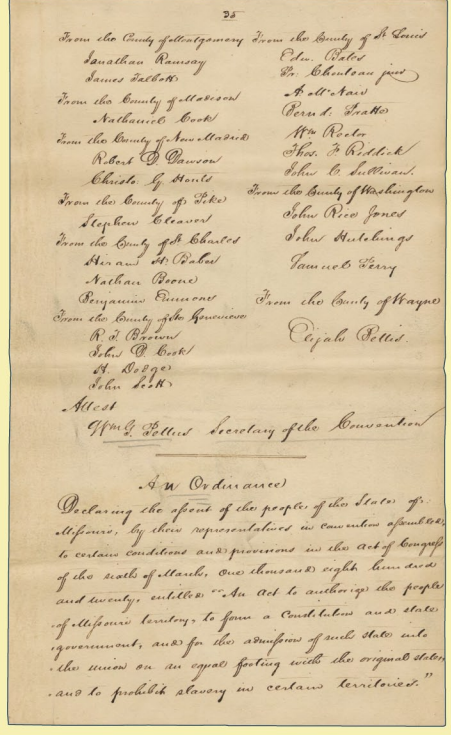
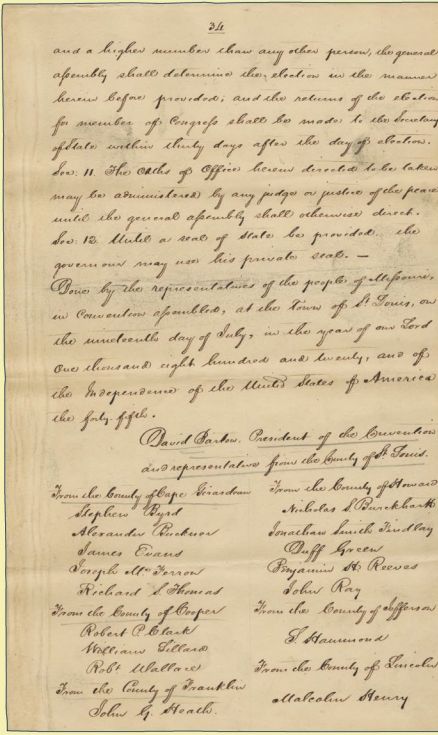
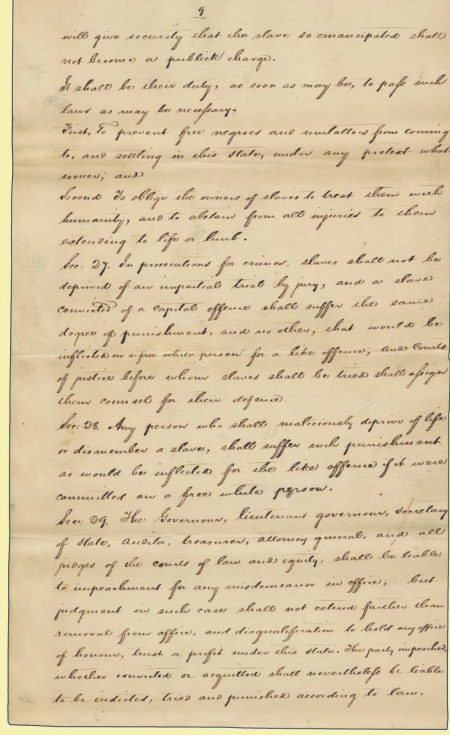
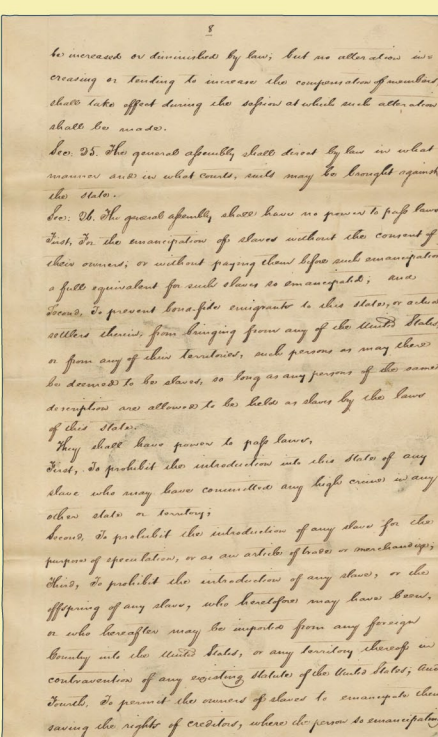
MISSOURI STATE CONSTITUTION OF 1820



Constitution of 1820, State of Missouri, pages 1, 8, 9, 34 and 35. National Archives and Records Administration



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Article III

§ 26. The general assembly shall have no power to pass laws,

First. For the emancipation of slaves without the consent of their owners, or without paying them, before such emancipation, a full equivalent for such slaves so emancipated; and

Second. To prevent bona fide emigrants to this state, or actual settlers therein from bringing from any of the United States, or from any other territories, such persons as may there be deemed to be slaves, so long as any persons of the same description are allowed to be held as slaves by the laws of this state.

They shall have the power to pass laws,

First. To prohibit the introduction into this state of any slaves who may have committed any high crime in any other state or territory;

Second. To prohibit the introduction of any slaves for the purpose of speculation, or as an article of trade or merchandise;



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Third. To prohibit the introduction of any slave, or the offspring of any slave, who heretofore may have been, or who heretofore may be, imported from any foreign country into the United States, or any territory thereof, in contravention of any existing statute of the United States; and

Fourth. To permit the owners of slaves to emancipate them, saving the rights of creditors, where the person so emancipating will give security that the slaves so emancipated shall not become a public charge.

It shall be their duty, as soon as may be, to pass such laws as are necessary,

First. To prevent free negroes and mulattoes from coming to, and settling in this state, under any pretext whatsoever; and

Second. To oblige the owners of slaves to treat them with humanity, and to abstain from all injuries to them extending to life and limb.

§ 27. In prosecutions for crimes, slaves shall not be deprived of an impartial trial by jury, and a slave convicted of capital offence shall suffer the same degree of punishment, and no other, that would be inflicted on a free white person for a like offence; and courts of justice before whom slaves shall be tried, shall assign them counsel for their defence.



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§ 28. Any person who shall maliciously deprive of life or dismember a slave, shall suffer such punishment as would be inflicted for the like offence if it were committed on a free white person.



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