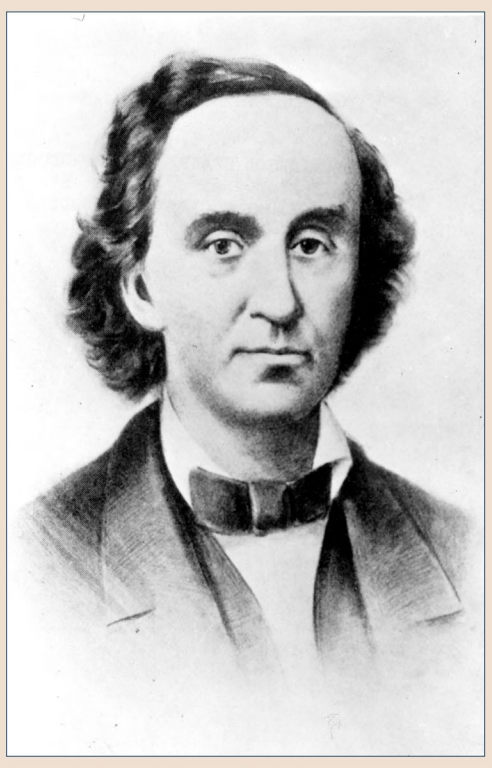
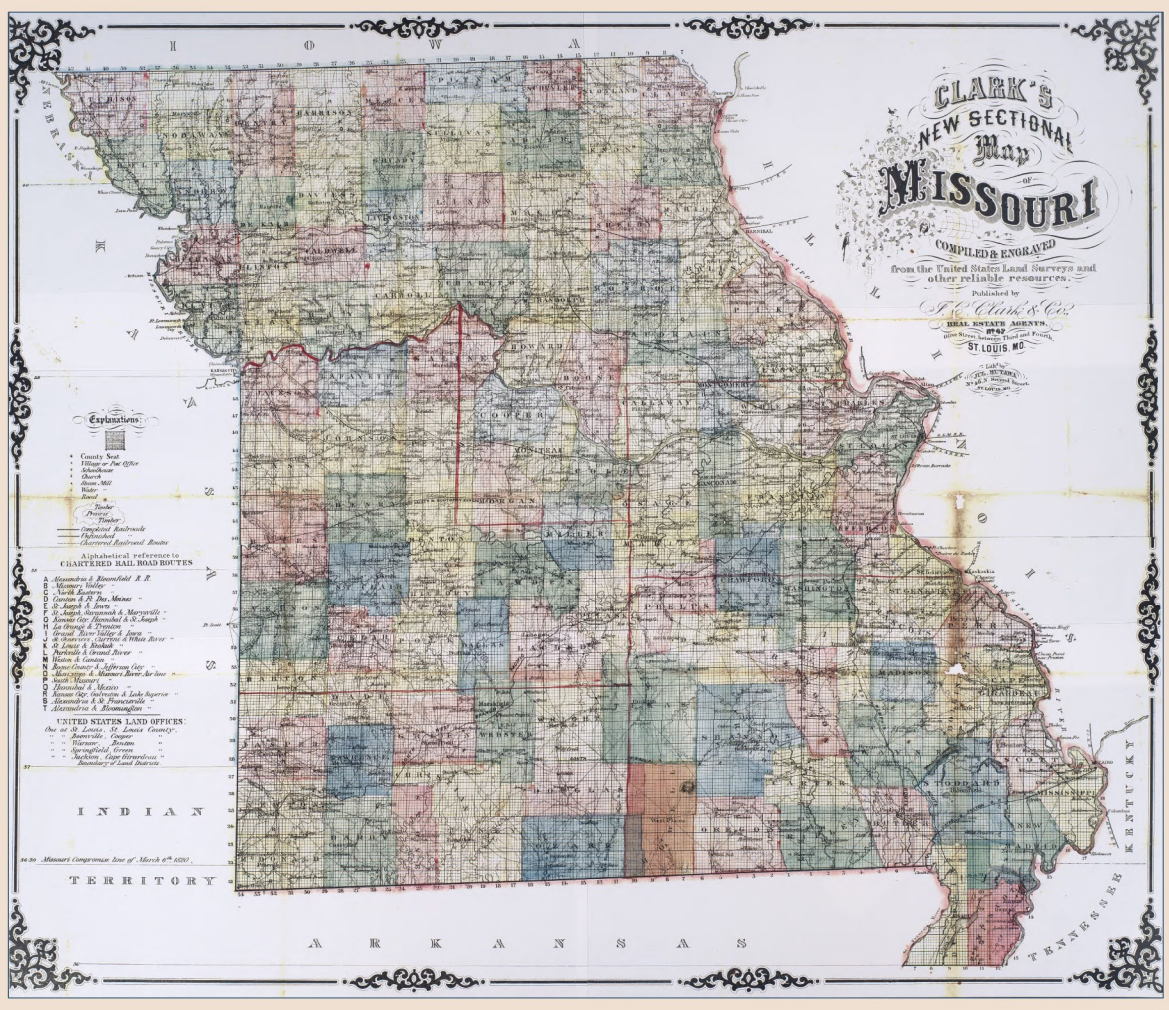
DIVIDED LOYALTIES
CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FROM THE
MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

CLAIBORNE FOX JACKSON

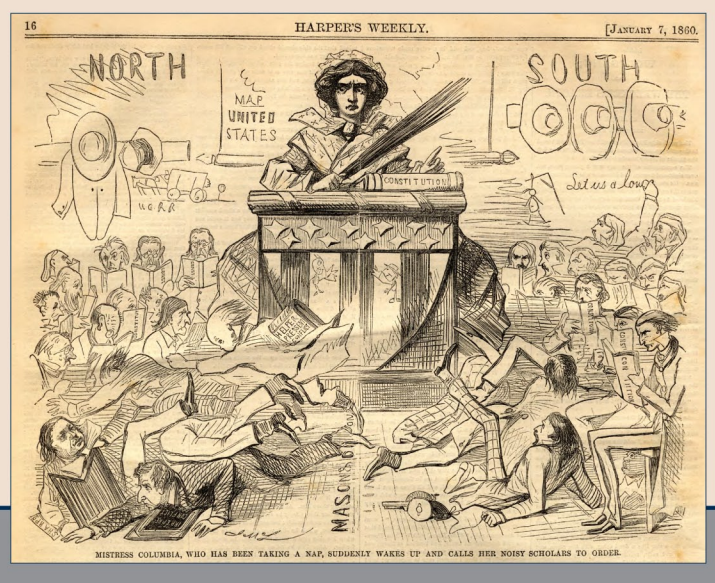


Missouri Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson.
Missouri State Archives

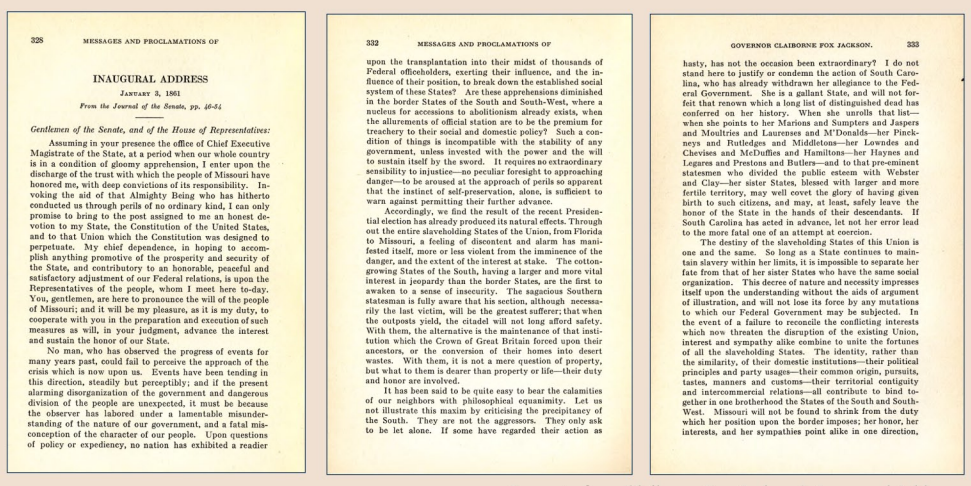


Clark's New Sectional Map of Missouri, 1860.
Missouri State Archives

In his 1860 campaign for Governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson cast himself as a middle-of-the-road Democrat on the issue of slavery. After his election, Jackson let it be known that while he supported the preservation of the Union, he could only do so if the North and South had equal input in determining whether slavery would be allowed in new territories. In his inaugural address, Jackson said that he believed Missouri's interests were best served by supporting its Southern neighbors.



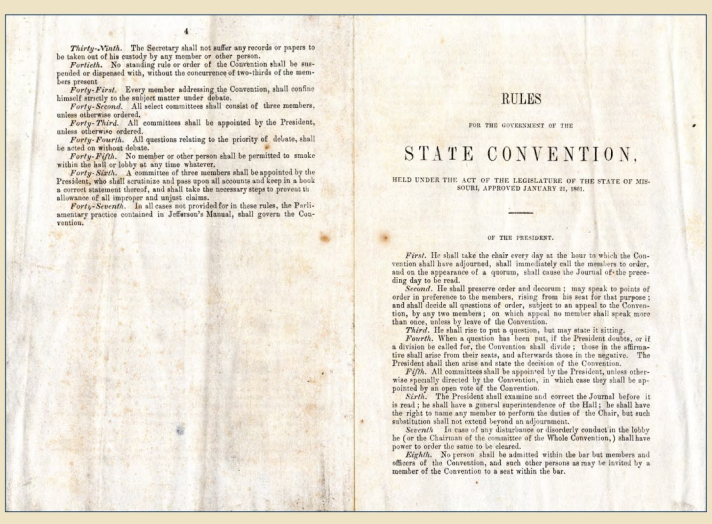
Harper's Weekly



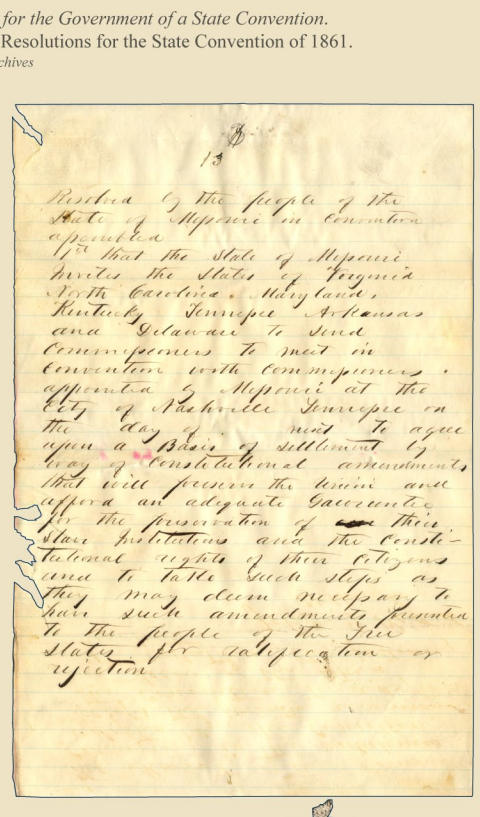
Excerpts from Claiborne Fox Jackson's Inaugural Address, January 3, 1860, from *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors*, volume III.
Missouri State Archives

"Missouri will not be found to shrink from the duty, which her position of the border imposes; her honor, interests, and her sympathies point alike in one direction, and determine her to stand by the South."

MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION OF 1861



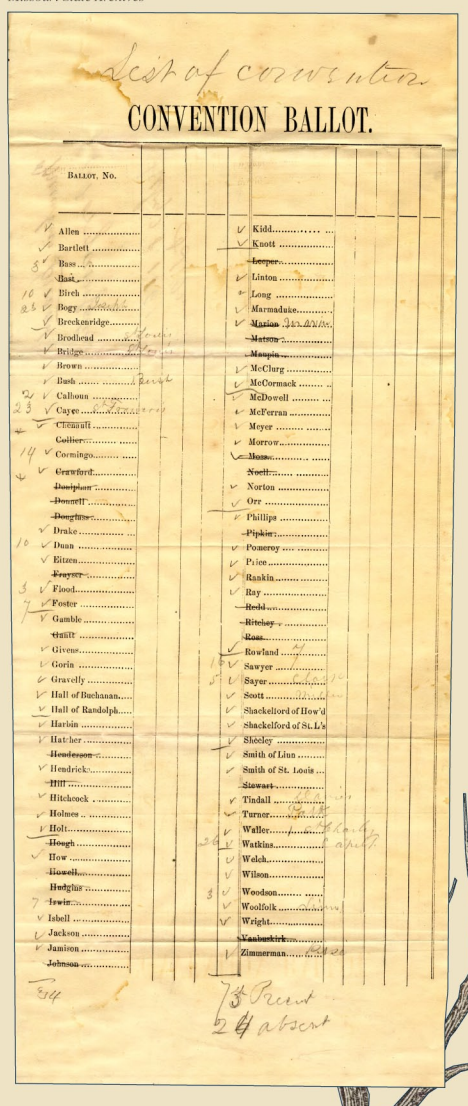
Above: Rules for the Government of a State Convention.
Below: Draft Resolutions for the State Convention of 1861.
Missouri State Archives



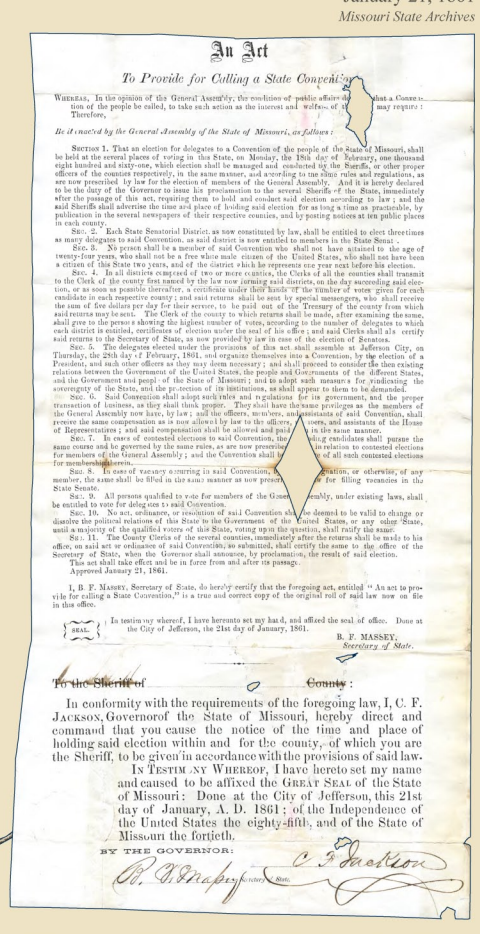
As Southern states began to secede from the Union in December 1860, Missouri's General Assembly called for a state convention to decide which path the state should follow. When Missourians met to select delegates for the convention, they overwhelmingly chose those who were dedicated to preserving the Union. Meeting in St. Louis in February 1861, the convention delegates cautiously kept an eye on the neighboring slave states of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas, which had not yet abandoned the Union. After 18 days of meetings, the delegates determined that there was no reason for Missouri to leave the Union, but agreed to meet again should conditions change.

In the meantime, U. S. Congressman Frank Blair and Army captain Nathaniel Lyon began to muster a pro-Union military force. They also secured the Federal munitions arsenal in St. Louis to keep it from falling into the hands of the pro-Southern state militia.

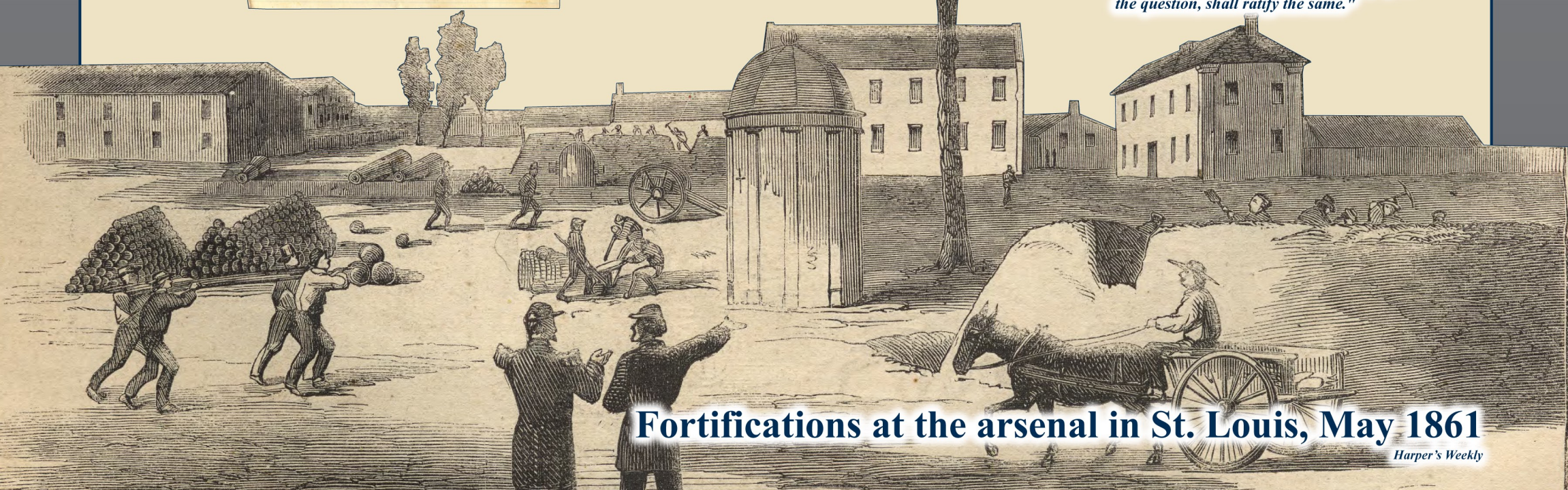
Convention Ballot.
Missouri State Archives



An Act to Provide for Calling a State Convention, January 21, 1861
Missouri State Archives



"No act, ordinance, or resolution of said Convention shall be deemed to be valid to change or dissolve the political relations of the State to the Government of the United States, or any other State, until a majority of the qualified voters of the State, voting upon the question, shall ratify the same."



Fortifications at the arsenal in St. Louis, May 1861
Harper's Weekly

1861