

MISSOURI'S 1875 CONSTITUTION

THE END OF RADICAL POWER

Despite the extreme measures they took to disenfranchise Southern sympathizers after the war, the Radical Republicans control of Missouri politics was brief. By the early 1870s, the Republican Party was badly split and many Radicals no longer held political office. By 1873, all but one of Missouri's six state-wide elected officials were Democrats.

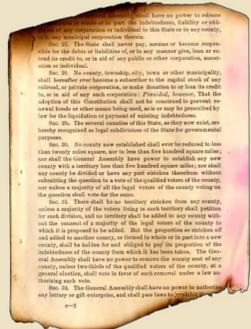
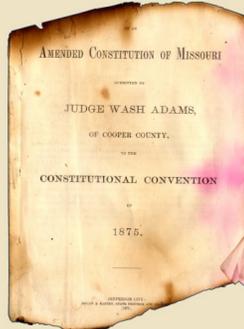
As Democrats took power, they were determined to re-write the 1865 Drake Constitution. In 1874, voters narrowly approved a measure calling for a new constitutional convention, which was held in 1875. After meeting for three months, the convention delegates approved a document that created a stronger governor and weaker state legislature and returned the state to the conservative politics that had defined it before the war. In October 1875, the constitution was approved with little enthusiasm in an election that saw only 105,000 Missourians cast ballots.



Composite photograph of the delegates of the 1875 Constitutional Convention.
Missouri State Archives

YEA	NAMES	YEA	NAMES	YEA	NAMES	YEA	NAMES
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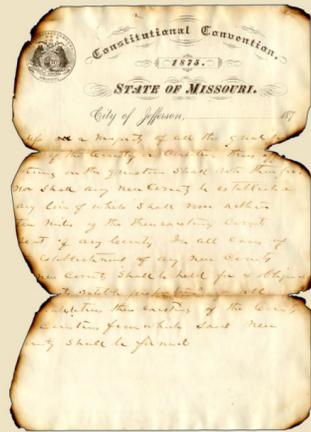
Roll call sheet, Constitutional Convention of 1875.
Missouri State Archives



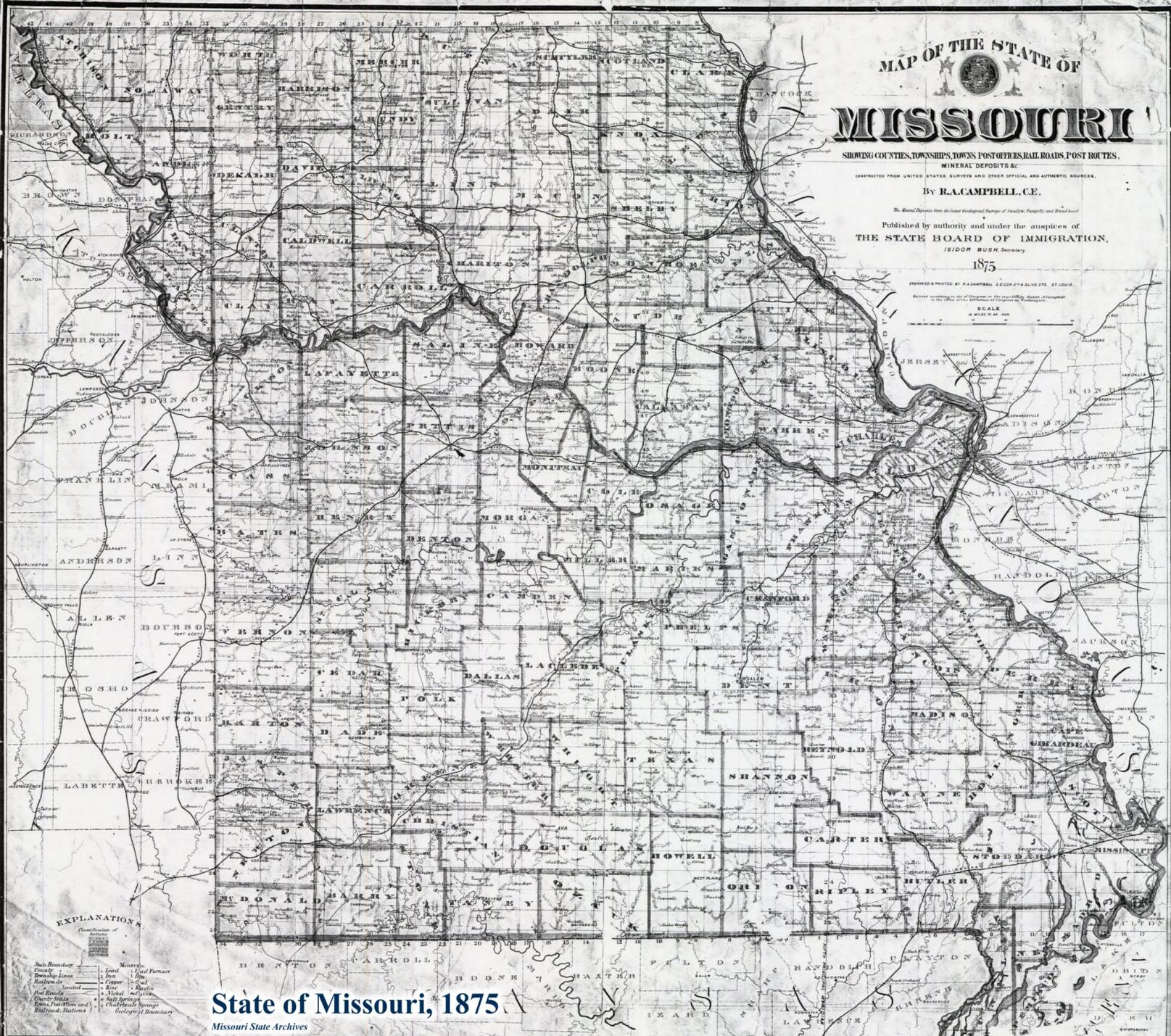
Pages from a draft printing of the Constitution of 1875.
Missouri State Archives



Missouri State Capitol, 1875
Missouri State Archives



Draft amendment from the 1875 Constitutional Convention.
Missouri State Archives



State of Missouri, 1875
Missouri State Archives

1875