

Journal #5320 from sdc 10.31.22

"Tis the Season

Acknowledging Nevada Day through Documents

Native American Author Pens First California Novel

Sisolak announces \$100 million for water infrastructure investments

Is Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, at risk of erupting?

Ground penetrating radar study at Shawnee Indian Mission on hold after concerns from Tribe

Greenpeace report finds plastics recycling is a dead-end street

Navajo Nation planning to investigate missing tribal members

This man documents the Inuk lifestyle with his family in the Arctic



'Tis the Season!

Acknowledging Nevada Day The Nevada Constitution

This is a vital area for any class that addresses the Nevada Constitution requirement, yet in past years coverage of this area was spotty at best. The resources below are intended to provide options to instructors and students for exploring the Nevada Constitution in a diverse variety of formats and approaches.

2A: The Constitution

There are three versions of the Nevada Constitution included here:

The first is the current, online version with all updates and amendments, as maintained by the Nevada Legislature.

The second is a modified version of the original text with amendments included.

The third is the original 1864 text without amendments.

There are various reasons why you might want to use one rather than another. The current version is best for understanding the current state of the constitution after more than 100 amendments. The modified version with plain text and modifications is easier to read: it's in a bigger font, and there aren't all those distracting hyperlinks to get past. You can also print and annotate it. Finally, the original 1864 version is useful from a historical perspective: if you want to see the original intent of the framers of the Nevada Constitution, complete with Roop County and no distracting later changes, this is the version to go for.

As an instructor, you can simply ask yourself which version of the Nevada Constitution suits your class' needs and goals. And if you have a choice as a student, you might want to ask yourself which version suits your needs and interests best.

1. Current online Nevada Constitution:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Const/NVConst.html>

2. The original version of the 1864 Constitution with amendments and changes, but in an easier-to-read print format in PDF, maintained by TMCC:

<https://tmcc.instructure.com/courses/822828/files/27212885/download?wrap=1>

3. The original, unchanged Nevada Constitution from 1864, without amendments:

(This document is in process of being uploaded to TMCC Library Guide for the Nevada Constitution with original text preceded by introduction and discussion/writing questions. The actual electronic files are included as part of the Appendices to this report.)

4. Minutes of the Nevada Constitutional Convention. This is the raw source, handwritten and digitized, page by page. It is a fascinating account and a great opportunity to explore archival

work as professional historians do it: reading handwritten documents and deciphering them to make sense of the past.

<http://www.nsladigitalcollections.org/browse?collection=constitutionalconvention#/item/000000071000581/view>

2B: Writings About the Nevada Constitution on its 145th Anniversary

An opinion piece in the Las Vegas Sun advocating for changes to the Nevada Constitution:

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2009/apr/14/constitution-need-repairs/>

A press release from the US National Archives on the 145th Anniversary of the Nevada Constitution:

<https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2009/nr09-127.html>

Nevada State Archives 145th Anniversary Background Piece with Questions and Answers, History, and Further Reading:

https://web.archive.org/web/20111103201814/http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1698&Itemid=418

2C: Useful Videos About the Nevada Constitution

The US and Nevada Constitutions 2019 from Oxford University Press (1:00:55)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TljgX6WSj0>

The 36th Star: Nevada's Journey from Territory to State: A Short Video from the Nevada Museum of Art Featuring Governor Brian Sandoval (13:05)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8aDLQotz_U

Primary Source

The Nevada State Constitution

The Nevada Constitution is one of the key documents of CH 203, after the Constitution for the United States. Our textbook talks about how Nevada came to be a state: Republican Party officials and President Lincoln himself feared that Lincoln would lose the 1864 presidential election to Democrat George McClellan due to the unpopularity of the drawn-out Civil War. Looking for a few extra electoral votes, they agreed to break off the western half of the Utah Territory and make it a new state: Nevada. (Utah itself did not gain statehood until 1896.) Thus, Nevada was “Battle Born” as much in an electoral battle as in the battle between North and South.

The original 1864 text of the Nevada Constitution was the product of a constitutional convention with thirty-nine delegates from July 4-28 in Carson City. Thirty-four of those thirty-nine delegates came to Nevada from California, so they based the constitution heavily on California’s,

but with some interesting differences. Likewise, while heavily based on the U.S. Constitution, Nevada's constitution differs in significant ways. Watch for them.

Once the Convention had drafted a constitution, Nevada voters approved it in September, and by October, Nevada was ready for statehood. The problem was that Lincoln wanted to see the constitution before he would grant statehood, and there was no time to send it by train, so two telegraphers spent twelve hours on October 26, 1864, typing the entire constitution into the telegraph. Since telegraph companies charged by the word, the bill for the 16, 543 word document added up to \$4303.27. This made it the longest telegraph message ever sent at the time, and that record lasted until 1881, when someone telegraphed the text of the Bible across the Atlantic Ocean, just to do it.

The state has amended the Nevada Constitution over 100 times, and it has not done so with numbered amendments at the end, but rather by inserting or deleting text in the document. This makes following along with changes difficult, but do your best if you review a version of the Nevada Constitution that includes the changes. The version I have included with these questions does not include the amendments: it is just the original 1864 text. That means we don't get to see later changes (at least not here) but we also get a good look at the pure, original document as the state's founders created it in 1864. As you read, think about the following:

- 1. How is the Nevada Constitution similar to the U.S. Constitution, both specifically and generally?*
- 2. How is it different? Look for specific differences and consider why they are different in the Nevada Constitution.*
- 3. What specific industries get a mention in the Nevada Constitution? Why? What does this tell us about the power those industries wielded, and about the priorities of the convention delegates?*
- 4. What specific mention does the Nevada Constitution make on taxation? Why is this significant, and does it tend to limit or expand the state government's power?*
- 5. What specific individual rights does the Nevada Constitution guarantee? Which does it restrict? Overall, does the Nevada Constitution provide for more or less individual freedom than the U.S. Constitution? Why?*
- 6. What provisions are there for the people to exercise direct democracy in Nevada? What does that tell us about the intent of the convention delegates on the relationship between the people and the government? Does this make the Nevada Constitution more or less democratic than the U.S. Constitution? Why?*

7. What does the Nevada Constitution say about education? Why might this be significant, and what does it tell us about the attitude of Nevada's elite toward the importance of education in 1864? How does it fit with the larger movement of Land Grant Colleges in the U.S. at the time?
8. Overall, what sort of society does the Nevada Constitution seem to envision? Why?
9. Which provision of the Nevada Constitution did you find most interesting or surprising? Why?
10. Which provision of the Nevada Constitution do you think is most important? Why?

Historical Documents

[Research Division](#) | [Constituent Services](#) | [Research Library](#)

- [Official Report of the Debates and Proceedings in the Constitutional Convention of the State of Nevada Assembled at Carson City, July 4th, 1864, to Form a Constitution and State Government](#)
-
- **Admission Acts**
 - [Act of Congress \(1861\) Organizing the Territory Of Nevada](#)
 - [Act of Congress \(1864\) Enabling the People of Nevada to Form a Constitution and State Government](#)
 - [Presidential Proclamation \(1864\) Declaring the Admission of the State of Nevada into the Union](#)
- **The Constitution of the State of Nevada**
 - Original 1864 version: [Typeset](#) or [Handwritten](#)
 - [Current version](#)
-
- **Historical Information about the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)**
 - [Foreword to NRS](#)
 - [Legislative Counsel's Preface to NRS](#)
 - [Act of the 48th Session of the Nevada Legislature Adopting and Enacting Nevada Revised Statutes \(1957\)](#)
 - [Survey of Recodification Problems in Nevada \(1950\)](#)
-
- [Political History of Nevada](#)
-
- [State of the State Address, 1864-Current](#)

State of Union Address 1866 Governor Blasdel

STATE LIBRARY

It affords me much pleasure to say that rapid progress has been made in the establishment of a State Library. Our government has been organized only fourteen months, and we now have 8,289 volumes—881 of them are law, and 2,408 miscellaneous works—all well selected. If care be

observed in future, this institution will continue commendatory, and exceedingly convenient and useful.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

In February last the Indians commenced a series of depredations in Humboldt county—burning houses, stealing stock, robbing, murdering, &c. Some of the leading citizens believing there were but few Indians engaged, wrote me for arms and ammunition, which were immediately forwarded to Hon. E. F. Dunne, at Star City, for distribution. But they soon learned that the number amounted to several hundred, and wrote me accordingly. I at once informed Gen. McDowell of the condition of affairs, and he promptly ordered the commander of this military district to send troops to their aid, which was done. The number sent—two companies—was soon found insufficient, and I again informed the General of the situation, whereupon he ordered two companies from the district of California, and one additional company from Nevada, to proceed as speedily as possible to the scene of action. About this time, two men—Stewart and Rabe—were murdered by the Indians at Walker Lake; and some stock was stolen on the Truckee river, and but for the wise management of Col. McDermit, and the judgment displayed by Capt. Wallaco, at Walker Lake, there doubtless would have been bloody work; but they procured some friendly Indians to accompany them, and at early dawn of the 14th of March, surrounded the camp concealing the murderers. The Indians seeing their situation, gave them up, and they were conveyed to Fort Churchill. The day Capt. W Tallace started to Walker Lake, Capt. Wells was ordered to the vicinity of Pyramid Lake, with a detachment of cavalry, where he encountered, about daylight of the 14th, some thirty odd Indians, including all classes; he killed all save two, perhaps, which made their escape. This caused a great excitement among the Piutes, and a general war seemed inevitable. I wrote to Col. McDermit, and he sent invitations to their principal chiefs and captains, to meet at the Fort. On the 22d day of March, accompanied by Gen. J. L. VanBokkelen, of the late Provost Guard, at Virginia, and a detachment of his men, I went to the Fort, where we found about one hundred Indians. The next day we had “a talk,” when they became reconciled, and promised that no more depredations should be committed. Col. McDermit then called together those who decided to capture the murderers, at Walker Lake, and after hearing the particulars of what they did, I thought it but just, as well as good policy, to reward them, which I did by giving them money, and after ward flour, blankets, etc. To the credit of the Piutes be it said, since then they have given us no trouble, nor do I think they will, if properly cared for. Indian troubles were feared in Lander county, in March, and early in April I sent to Lander Guard twenty stand of arms and ammunition. On the 5th day of May I received letters from lion. W.W. Hobart, Gen. Welty, and other leading gentlemen of Austin, asking aid, and giving information about stock having been stolen, and other offenses committed by the Indians. I caused fifty more stand of arms, with ammunition, to be sent to Gen. Welty. On the 24th of May, the Lander Guard asked of me to be ordered out, to go to Humboldt; I declined for the same reason given to three other military companies, to wit: A sufficient number of Government troops in the State, to put down the Indians, without embarrassing our treasury. On the 30th day of May I started from Fort Churchill, accompanied by Col. McDermit and a detachment of cavalry, for Lander, to ascertain the condition of Indian affairs there. Arrived on the 2d of June, and on the 3d saw about one hundred and fifty of them, and had “a talk;” but wishing to see more, I appointed the 6th to meet them again, when there were two hundred and sixty-six present.

I told them we desired peace, but if they continued to steal, and commit other depredations, it would be necessary to make war upon them. I have heard no complaints against them since then. Lack of time forbids detailing the incidents of my visits among the various tribes; suffice it to say, some of their arguments were unanswerable; they said, through their interpreter, “the white men cut down our pine trees, their cattle eat our grass, we have no pine nuts, no grass seeds, and are very hungry.”

I found them, in several instances, with nothing to subsist upon but rabbits, mice, grasshoppers, ants and other insects.

It is to be hoped the General Government will do something to relieve their wants, very soon; if not, before the winter closes, they will be compelled to steal or starve, in large numbers. They should not be left in this condition. Much praise is due to our brave soldiers, for their success in ending hostilities.

I take this occasion, also, to return to General Irwin McDowell, the thanks of our people, for his promptness in their aid.

Nor can I conclude without making mention of the fidelity and faithful services of Colonel Charles McDermit, late commander of this Military District, who fell in defense of our borders, on the 7th of last August, in Paradise Valley, by a shot from an Indian. He was a most worthy gentleman, a well-skilled, faithful officer, and a brave, unflinching, patriotic soldier.

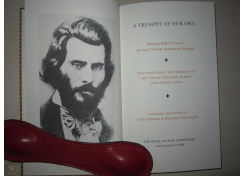
His untimely end will be an irreparable loss to his family, and deeply felt by the community at large, who will ever bear him in grateful remembrance.

— — **State of Union Address 1866 Governor Blasdel**

‘until the Union is fully reconstructed and cemented—indissoluble to the end of time—’ The land of the free, and the home of the brave !“—the world’s asylum for all its oppressed! Let us uncompromisingly discharge our political duties—especially those of official character—in such manner that each may say, “I have done by my constituents as I would have had them do by me.” Then, with clear conscience, unsullied reputation, and self-approval, may each return, and laying down, unabused, the “brief authority” given by them, hear the response—’ Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” H. G. BLASDEL. 1866



Loving this Library Pumpkin made by the awesome staff at [Truro Public Library!](#)



Native American Author Pens First California Novel

Published by [Kimberly Brown](#)

John Rollin Ridge's Cherokee name is Cheesquatalawny or "Yellow Bird." He is considered the first Native American novelist.

John Rollin Ridge [dag-0359a] Daguerreotype, California State Library

John is born in 1827 in New Echota, the Cherokee Nation's capital in Georgia. When John's father is killed by political rivals, his mother takes the Ridge family west in the 1830s, just ahead of the forced migration of the Cherokee that is the [Trail of Tears](#).

The Ridge family relocates to Missouri. From 1843 to 1845, Ridge studies Latin, Greek and classical literature at Great Barrington Academy in Massachusetts, writing his first poem "To a Thundercloud."

While living in Missouri, Ridge kills a man he believes assassinated his father. To avoid prosecution, he flees to California during the Gold Rush.

Ridge doesn't take to prospecting and turns his hand to writing. He is a correspondent for the New Orleans newspaper *True Delta* and later serves as editor of several California newspapers, including the *Daily Bee* in Sacramento and the *Express* in Marysville.

Reprint of Ridge's Book, University of Oklahoma Press, California State Library

Ridge is best known for his book, [The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta, the Celebrated California Bandit](#) — the first novel written in the State of California.

[Joaquin Murieta](#) is a notorious outlaw killed in 1853. In his 1854 fictionalization, Ridge portrays Murieta as a innocent Mexican immigrant who seeks success in the gold fields but turns to crime in anger and desperation after being thwarted by the [Foreign Miner's Tax](#) and seeing his wife raped and his brother killed by white men.

Although a "bestseller," the book provides no income to Ridge during his lifetime. His wife posthumously publishes [a book of his poetry](#) that includes an ode to Mt. Shasta, "A Cherokee Love Song" and this paean to California:

BRIGHT land of summery days and golden peace,
Of vine anti flower and ever rich increase;
Of veined hills and mountains treasure-stoned,
Where miser-gnomes in secret watch their hoard,
And startle at the burglar pick and spade,
Where, winding through the arid plains and drear
That freshen with the liquid presence near,
Or circling round the pine-clad mountain's side,
With crystal music in its rippling tide,

Or rolling, joyous in its volumed flow,
O'er yawning gulf and deep abyss below,
The sinuous flume far bears its precious stream,
And thousand hearts are gladdened in its gleam!
Nor less where, swift upon his path of fire,
The modern Mercury treads th' electric wire—
The living chord that vibrates through the hills,
Groans in the storms or in the breezes thrills;
Threads plain and wilderness, and pierces far
To homes that nestle where the glaciers are.
Nor less again have Art and Labor wrought
To realize the bold, inventive thought
That finds achievement in the tunneled hills.
The sunken shaft, the thunder of the mills;
The rivers leaping from their ancient bed
And plunging headlong in the course they're led;
The mountains crumbling to the level plain,
And forests prostrate 'neath the ax's reign.

And shall we view these miracles and more
Which mind and muscle never wrought before,
Without remembrance in these latter years,
Of those brave men, those hardy Pioneers,
Who led the way for Science, Art, and Law,
'Mid dangers their successors never saw,
And countless hardships that they never knew?
The famed and unfamed heroes tried and true,
Who crowded into months or days the deeds
Of years, and of young empire sowed the seeds?
Amid the mass there here and there appears
Some reverend head, majestic as a seers—
Arising from the rest like snow-crowned peak,
Around whose brow' the whitening tempests break!
These are the Pioneers of Pioneers,
Those elder heroes in the fight, who, years
And years ago, did drive the wild beast back
To plant their homes where late he left the track.
They 're sinking, one by one, like pines that long
Have braved, erect, the howling winters strong,
To fall at last midst stillest peace profound,
And wake the woods with wonder at the sound.
Shall these old heroes be forgot? Not so,
For, while they yet survive Time's downward flow,
I see a rescuing hand stretched forth to save
The good, the true, from dark Oblivion's grave.
'Tis woman's hand that thus would snatch from night
That do their careful-hidden wealth invade,
I would some better worthier hand than mine
Could yield thee now the tributes that are thine,
And paint thee, as a poet should, divine!
But, poor indeed would be the tongue, and weak,
Which could not something of thy glories speak.
And while for thee no gems of thought I bring
From starry paths of lonely wandering,
Where Genius went to stray, yet may my muse
Have found such tribute as thou 'lt not refuse—
Some humbler flowers of modest mien and hue
By silver stream~ in truth's fair fields that grew.

Than this the sun lights up no lovelier land,
So wondrous rich and beautiful and grand!
From where Old Ocean 'gainst the rock-bound shore
His billows roll with never-ceasing roar
To where the far-off ghostly snow-realm shines,
Or solemn music of the mountain pines
Sounds through those dim and haunted solitudes,
As if the thunder whispered to the woods;
Or where the golden-sanded streams do stray
And freshen Nature in their gladdening way;
Where'er our footsteps tend our visions roam,
We find but beauty's Eden, grandeur's home!
Yet not alone to Nature's bounteous hand
Are due the glories of this magic land;
For man hath taught its fertile soil to yield
The yellow largess of the waving field,
And give to generous toil as rich guerdon
Of thousand fruits as toil bath ever won.
In deed and truth not idle bath he been—
His busy work is all around us seen.
From north to south, and from the east to west,
His forming, changing hand bath not seen rest.
The Arts and Labor spake, and lo! there rose
(As dream-like as the cloud-born city shows,
At morning in the east) this grandest Queen
Of all the cities of the West. With mien
Majestic as of right her look should be,
She sits like Tyre of old beside the sea;
And, while the messengers of commerce wait,
She opens wide and free her Golden Gate.
From far to her the nations laden come
With silks and wares and precious stones and gum,
And of the spoils she every land beguiles
And ocean yields them from his thousand isles.

Nor less the Genius of the Arts, with aid
Of Labor's rugged toil, bath been displayed
Those honored names far worthier of the light,
And them transmit to shine on History's scroll
When that gray sage his records shall unroll.
And yet some whom the weeping muse laments,
Have their unwrit but lasting monuments.
Such is that Peak which bears brave Lassen's name—
A fit memorial of the grandest fame;
For it shall stand while crowns and laurels fail,
And Time strews men like leaves upon the gale.
Proud land, to give such honored men their graves!
Long as thy shore the broad Pacific laves
Or soars to heaven Mount Shasta's brow of awe
(Like that "white throne" and vast th' Evangel saw),
Shall thy most rare and golden name be crowned
With all that glory gives, the world around!
Still shall the nations visit thee from far,
(With Hesper deemed a not unequal star;)
Still shalt thou lavish, pour thy treasures forth,
Enriching all from thy exhaustless worth;
Still shall thy sons be brave, thy daughters fair,
And Art and Science breathe thy purer air.

Is Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, at risk of erupting?

<https://news.yahoo.com/hawaii-mauna-loa-world-largest-132355674.html>

Ground penetrating radar study at Shawnee Indian Mission on hold after concerns from Shawnee Tribe

<https://www.kmbc.com/article/ground-penetrating-radar-study-shawnee-indian-mission-on-hold/41770797>

Greenpeace report finds plastics recycling is a dead-end street

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/greenpeace-report-finds-plastics-recycling-dead-end-street/story?id=92123958>

Navajo Nation planning to investigate missing tribal members

<https://www.ksl.com/article/50503421/navajo-nation-planning-to-investigate-missing-tribal-members>

[BuzzFeed's Adorably](#)

documents the Inuk lifestyle with his family in the Arctic.

This man

“The lesson I want you to learn is: It doesn't matter what you look like. You can be tall or short or fat or thin, or ugly or handsome, like your father, or you can be black or yellow or white. It doesn't matter. But what does matter is the size of your heart and the strength of your character.”
- Herman Munster, 1965

