

Conrad E. Wright Research Conference
 October 12 to 16, 2020

“Shall Not Be Denied”

The 15th & 19th Amendments at the
 Sesquicentennial & Centennial of Their
 Ratifications

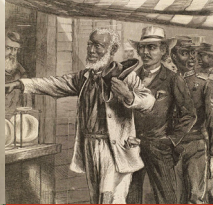
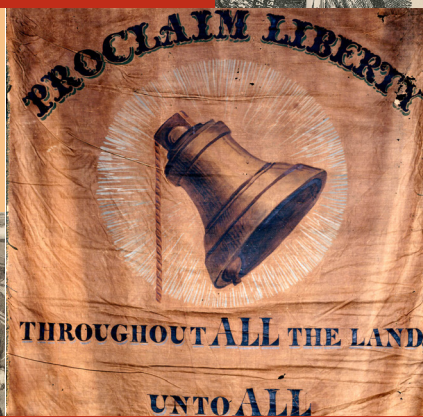
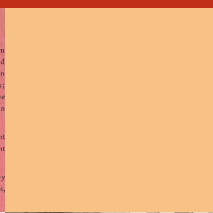


MR. VOTER!

REMEMBER That woman suffrage has produced no reform in social conditions; no laws to regulate woman or child labor; no improved corporation legislation; no prison reform; no health reform; no participation in politics; no increase in wages in any of the States that have granted it that has not been equalled or surpassed in MAN SUFFRAGE States.

REMEMBER That woman suffrage is only an experiment and we cannot afford to undertake such an experiment under present conditions.

REMEMBER That woman suffrage means suffrage for every woman and not only for your own female relatives, friends and acquaintances.



Massachusetts
 Historical Society
 Founded 1791

Welcome to the virtual Conrad E. Wright Research Conference presented by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

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LOCATION

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SOCIAL AND WEB

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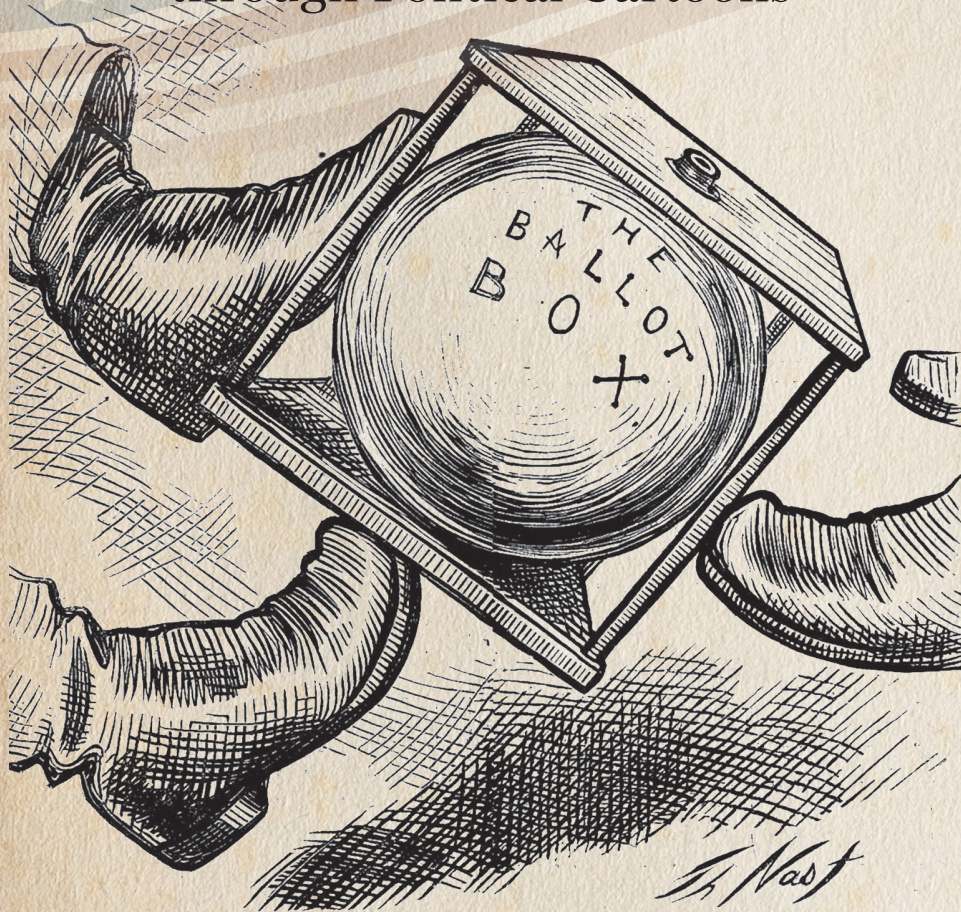
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Cover images: Top row (left to right): *Frederick Douglass*, photograph, ca. 1817-1895; Detail of *Reconstruction*, lithograph engraved by J.L. Giles [New York]: printed by F. Ratellier, 171 Broadway, N.Y., [1867]. Second row: *Hugging a Delusion*, postcard by Laura E. Foster, [before 1918]. Third row: *The South's Battalion of Death*, broadside. Fourth row (left to right): "The Anti-Suffrage Rose," words and music by Phil Hanna, Boston: published by Women's Anti-Suffrage Assoc., circa 1915; *Mr. Voter!*, circular by the Women's Anti-Suffrage Association of Massachusetts; *Proclaim Liberty Throughout all The Land...*, by unknown, Boston, 1843. Fifth row (left to right): *Susan B. Anthony*, photograph, circa 1850; *The First Vote*, engraving drawn by A. R. Waud, *Harper's Weekly*, November 16, 1867, page 721. Bottom row: *Suffrage Parade*, May 1914.

Who Counts?

A Look at Voter Rights
through Political Cartoons



A NATIONAL GAME THAT IS PLAYED OUT.

Image: A National Game That Is Played Out, by Thomas Nast, Harper's Weekly, December 23, 1876, p. 1044.

Explore the virtual exhibition at

www.masshist.org/whocounts

Explore a selection of political cartoons to examine how cartoonists help to tell the story of voting rights in the United States.

Conrad E. Wright Research Conference
October 12 to 16, 2020

**“Shall Not Be Denied”:
The 15th and 19th Amendments at the Sesquicentennial
and Centennial of Their Ratifications**

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural Conrad E. Wright Research Conference, made possible by the generosity of the Honorable Levin H. Campbell.

The year 2020 marks the anniversaries of two critical amendments to the United States Constitution. Spaced fifty years apart, the 15th and 19th Amendments, ratified in 1870 and 1920 respectively, prohibited the use of race or sex to deny American citizens the franchise. However, the amendments did not prevent states from adopting other methods of discrimination. Viewed as the product of two different movements—abolitionism and the Civil War on the one hand and the Progressive campaigns and the First World War on the other—these two periods and amendments are not often considered together.

This conference revisits the long journey to secure voting rights for African Americans and women in United States history. It considers the legal precedents and hurdles that each amendment faced, the meaning and uneven outcomes of each, the social context that allowed for ultimate ratification, the role of key individuals and groups in these respective contexts, and how each amendment has been remembered over time.

The keynote panel, featuring Profs. Alison M. Parker, University of Delaware, and Lisa Tetrault, Carnegie Mellon University, and moderator Prof. Alex Keyssar, Harvard University, is postponed until it is safe to hold the event in person at the MHS.

We are grateful to all of our presenters for their willingness to take part in this virtual conference, and we offer our sincere thanks to Christian Samito, Allison Lange, and Mollie Ames for their hard work in helping us to pull together all of the pieces.

Monday, October 12

2:00 - 2:30 PM: Introduction and Opening Remarks

- Catherine Allgor, Massachusetts Historical Society

2:30 - 4:00 PM: Biographies of Suffrage Champions

Presenters:

- Ellen DuBois, University of California Los Angeles, “Frederick Douglass & Elizabeth Cady Stanton”
- Thomas Dublin, SUNY Binghamton, “The Changing Shape of the Black Women Suffrage Movement, 1870–1920”
- N. Lynn Eckhert, Partners HealthCare International, “The Role of African American and Women Physicians in Voting Rights in America”

Commenter:

Manisha Sinha, University of Connecticut

Tuesday, October 13

12:00 - 1:40 PM: Marriage and the Amendments

Presenters:

- H el ene Quanquin, University of Lille, “Troubling Marriage: Abby Kelley and Stephen S. Foster and the 15th Amendment”
- Carol Faulkner, Syracuse University, “Suffrage and the Specter of Interracial Marriage”
- Jessica Derleth, SUNY Binghamton, “Marital Unity Through the Franchise: Suffragists’ Manipulation of Gender and Marriage Norms”

Commenter:

Kathi Kern, University of Kentucky

Wednesday, October 14

2:00 - 3:40 PM: The Federal Government and Voting Rights in States and Across the Empire

Presenters:

- Silvana R. Siddali, Saint Louis University, “African American Suffrage, Western State Constitutions, and the 15th Amendment”
- Sunu Kodumthara, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, “Oklahoma, the 19th Amendment, and the ‘Threat’ of Racial Equality”
- Laura R. Prieto, Simmons University, “Still Subjects, Not Sovereigns: The 19th Amendment and American Empire in the Philippines”

Commenter:

Paul Finkelman, Gratz College

Thursday, October 15

1:30 - 3:40 PM: Is She Disqualified From Voting?

Presenters:

- Corinne T. Field, University of Virginia, “Turning Ridicule into Respect: Old Women and Leadership in the Long Women’s Suffrage Movement, 1850–1920”
- Nicole Etcheson, Ball State University, “‘When Women Do Military Duty’: Women Suffrage and the Civil War Era”
- Kara W. Swanson, Northeastern University School of Law, “Inventing Voters: Ability, Patents, and Civil Rights, 1870–1920”
- Rabia S. Belt, Stanford Law School, “Disability and the Struggle for Voting Rights”

Commenter:

Paula Austin, Boston University

The South's Battalion of Death



From "The Crisis," official organ of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People
JANE ADDAMS, Director

WHAT "VOTES FOR WOMEN" MEANS TO THE SOUTH

Friday, October 16

1:30 - 3:00 PM: What Did the Amendments Not Cover?

Presenters:

- Adam H. Dombay, College of Charleston, "The Lost Cause and the 15th Amendment: Disenfranchisement and the Passage of the 19th Amendment"
- Elizabeth Katz, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, "Women's Suffrage and the Right to Hold Public Office"

Commenter:

Akhil Reed Amar, Yale Law School

3:00 - 3:30 PM: Concluding Remarks

- Allison Lange, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Christian Samito, Boston University School of Law

Left: *The South's Battalion of Death*, broadside.

Rabia S. Belt

Rabia S. Belt is Associate Professor at Stanford Law School. A legal historian, she examines the treatment of disabled people in American life, particularly relating to voting rights. Her articles have been published in *Stanford Law Review*, *Rutgers Race & The Law Review*, and *University of Miami Law Review*. Her book in progress is *Disabling Democracy in America: Disability, Citizenship, Suffrage, and the Law, 1819–1920*.

Jessica Derleth

Jessica Derleth earned her Ph.D. in history from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2019. Her work focuses on studies of women, gender, and sexuality in America and under imperialism. Her essay “Kneading Politics’: Cookery and the American Suffrage Movement” was published in *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* (2018). She is a frequent writer and editor for the publication *Clio and the Contemporary*.

Adam H. Domby

Adam H. Domby is Assistant Professor of History and the Associate Director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture at the College of Charleston. An expert on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the American South, he has also written on prisoners of war, guerilla warfare, and genealogy. His book *The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory* (2020) explores how fiction dictates contemporary understandings of the Civil War, specifically in light of the “Lost Cause” narrative. His current projects include his manuscript *At War with Itself: The South’s Internal Conflict During the Civil War Era*.

Thomas Dublin

Thomas Dublin is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at the State University of New York at Binghamton. A scholar of gender and ethnic studies, he focuses on the American immigrant and working-class experience, particularly for women laborers. Among other publications, he has written *Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1826–1860* (1979), *Immigrant Voices: New Lives in America, 1773–1986* (1993), and *The Face of Decline: The Pennsylvania Anthracite Region in the Twentieth Century* (2005). He currently edits the *Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States*, a database housing thousands of biographical sketches of women suffragists.

Ellen DuBois

Ellen DuBois is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California Los Angeles. Since the 1970s, she has spearheaded studies in women’s contemporary American history, specializing in women’s political history as well as global feminisms. She has authored several books, including *Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women’s Movement in America, 1848–1869* (1978), *Women’s Suffrage and Women’s Rights* (1998), and the textbook *Through Women’s Eyes: An American History with Documents* (2005). She most recently published *Suffrage: Women’s Long Battle for the Vote* (2020). She is currently writing a biography of American suffragist-abolitionist Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

N. Lynn Eckhert

N. Lynn Eckhert is the Director of Academic Programs at Partners Health-Care International. She previously worked at the University of Massachusetts Medical School as a primary care pediatrician, a faculty member, and an administrator. Her leadership roles included Associate Dean of Admissions, Chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Dean/Vice Chancellor for International and Public Health Programs. She also served as Chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges, Chair of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, and President of the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. She is an expert in public health and medical education.

Nicole Etcheson

Nicole Etcheson is Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History at Ball State University. She is the author of *A Generation at War: The Civil War Era in a Northern Community* (2011), which won the 2012 Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American Historians. Her other publications include *Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era* (2004) and *The Emerging Midwest: Upland Southerners and the Political Culture of the Old Northwest* (1996). She is currently working on a project about suffrage in the post-Civil War era.

Carol Faulkner

Carol Faulkner is Professor of History and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is the author of *Unfaithful: Love, Adultery, and Marriage Reform in Nineteenth-Century America* (2019), *Lucretia Mott’s Heresy: Abolition and Women’s Rights in Nineteenth-Century America* (2011), and *Women’s Radical Reconstruction: The Freedmen’s Aid Movement* (2004). She is the co-editor of *Interconnections: Gender and Race in American History* (2014) and *Lucretia Mott Speaks: The Essential Speeches and Sermons* (2017).

Corinne T. Field

Corinne T. Field is Associate Professor in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Department at the University of Virginia. A specialist in gender, race, and age in 19th-century America, she wrote *The Struggle for Equal Adulthood: Gender, Race, Age, and the Fight for Citizenship in Antebellum America* (2014) and co-edited *Age in America: Colonial Era to the Present* (2015). She was also a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and co-founder of the History of Black Girlhood Network, which advocates for historical research on black girlhood. Her manuscript in progress deals with Anglo-American feminism from 1870 to 1930, focusing on the movement’s age and race-based conflicts.

Elizabeth Katz

Elizabeth D. Katz is Associate Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a legal historian with expertise in family law, criminal law, and state legal systems, and she is particularly interested in how gender and religion have influenced the development of doctrines and institutions in these areas. Professor Katz received her Ph.D. in History from Harvard University and her B.A., M.A., and J.D. from the University of Virginia. Her scholarship has been published in the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *Virginia Law Review*, and the *William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law*. Her research has been supported most recently by the William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Early Career Scholar Fellowship awarded by the American Society for Legal History, an Albert J. Beveridge Grant from the American Historical Association, and a fellowship from the Stanford Center for Law and History.

Sunu Kodumthara

Sunu Kodumthara is Associate Professor of History at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. She graduated with her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Oklahoma in 2011, specializing in the American West, women’s history, and post-1865 American history. She is the author of “‘The Right of Suffrage Has Been Thrust on Me’: The Reluctant Suffragists of the American West,” published in the October 2020 issue of *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. She is also a contributing author to *This Land Is Herland: Gendered Activism in Oklahoma, 1870s–2010s*, which will be published in 2021 by the University of Oklahoma Press. She has served on the boards for the Western Association of Women Historians, as well as the Coordinating Council of Women Historians.

Allison Lange

Allison Lange is Associate Professor of History at the Wentworth Institute of Technology, where students selected her for The Center for Diversity & Social Justice’s Faculty Excellence Award in 2018. Her scholarship focuses on American women’s history, specifically the suffrage movement. Some of her latest articles include “From Mannish Radicals to Feminist Heroes: Suffragists in Popular Culture” (2020) and “How Susan B. Anthony Became the Most Recognizable Suffragist” (2020). She also recently published her book *Picturing Political Power: Images in the Women’s Suffrage Movement* (2020). She has curated exhibits on women’s suffrage at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University.

Laura R. Prieto

Laura R. Prieto is Professor and the Alumni Chair in Public Humanities at Simmons University. Former Director of the Graduate Program in History, she teaches in both the History and Women’s and Gender Studies Departments, with a focus on the intersection of race, sexuality, and imperialism. She is the author of *At Home in the Studio: The Professionalization of Women Artists in America* (2001) and *Women in America: Issues and Controversies* (2011). She also co-edited *Daughter of Adena: Margaret Worthington’s Personal Papers, 1836–1839* (2005). Her current research examines the impact of the Spanish War on American and colonized women, specifically Filipina women.

Hélène Quanquin

Hélène Quanquin is Professor of American Studies at the University of Lille (France). A scholar of 19th-century reform movements and activists, she is primarily interested in the mutual influence between the personal and the political and the different sites where political work is done and ideas are produced. She has published essays in European and American journals and books. She has received fellowships from the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Schlesinger Library, the American Antiquarian Society, the Sophia Smith Collection, and the Association Française d’Études Américaines. Her forthcoming book, *Men in the American Women’s Rights Movement, 1830–1890: Cumbersome Allies*, will be published at the end of 2020.

Christian Samito

Christian Samito is Lecturer in Law at the Boston University School of Law. In addition to teaching, he is a practicing attorney, public speaker, and writer. His areas of expertise include the legal as well as political, economic, military, and ethnic histories of 18th- and 19th-century America. His latest books are *Becoming American Under Fire: Irish Americans, African Americans, and the Politics of Citizenship During the Civil War Era* (2009) and *Lincoln and the Thirteenth Amendment* (2015).

Silvana R. Siddali

Silvana R. Siddali is Professor of History at Saint Louis University. She specializes in 19th-century political and constitutional American history, writing *From Property to Person: Slavery and the Confiscation Acts, 1861–1862* (2005) and *Frontier Democracy: Constitutional Conventions in the Old Northwest* (2015). She also edited *Missouri’s War: The Civil War in Documents* (2008), which won the Missouri Humanity Council’s 2011 Distinguished Achievement in Literature Award. She recently published “‘Better to kill them off at once’: Race, Violence, and Human Rights in Antebellum Western State Constitutional Conventions” (2019) in the journal *American Nineteenth Century History*.

Kara W. Swanson

Kara W. Swanson is Professor of Law and Affiliate Professor of History at Northeastern University. Her scholarship focuses on historical intersections among law, science, medicine, and technology in the United States. She concentrates on questions of property, identity, and belonging with respect to race, gender, and sexuality, examining sociolegal systems such as the patent system and the regulation of reproduction and the body. Her first book, *Banking on the Body: The Market in Blood, Milk, and Sperm in Modern America* (2014) is a medicolegal history of property in the human body. Her book in progress is tentatively titled *Inventing Citizens: Race, Gender, and Patents* and explores the surprising role of invention and patents in civil rights movements.

Akhil Reed Amar

Akhil Reed Amar is the Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale Law School. An authority in constitutional law, he has won the Federalist Society’s 1993 Paul M. Bator Award, Yale College’s 2008 DeVane Medal, and the American Bar Foundation’s 2017 Outstanding Scholar Award. He also received the American Bar Association’s 2006 Silver Gavel Award for his book *America’s Constitution: A Biography* (2005). He is the author of many other books and articles, and his work has been cited in over 36 Supreme Court cases. He most recently published *The Law of the Land: A Grand Tour of Our Constitutional Republic* (2015) and *The Constitution Today: Timeless Lessons for the Issues of Our Era* (2016).

Paula Austin

Paula Austin is Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies at Boston University. Her expertise pertains to African American and women’s studies, with emphases on race, urbanism, and childhood. She was a contributing author to *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism* (2002) and co-editor of “Teaching Black Lives Matter” (2016), a special issue in the journal *Radical Teacher*. She recently published her book, *Coming of Age in Jim Crow DC: Navigating the Politics of Everyday Life* (2019).

Paul Finkelman

Paul Finkelman is the President of Gratz College. He was previously the Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice at the University of Ottawa School of Law and the John E. Murray Visiting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. An authority in American Jewish history and the history of American slavery, as well as American legal and constitutional history, he has written or edited over 50 books and written over 200 articles. From this extensive collection of works, he has been cited in five distinct Supreme Court case decisions. He most recently published *Supreme Injustice: Slavery in the Nation’s Highest Court* (2018).

Kathi Kern

Kathi Kern is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Kentucky. She concentrates on historical topics of gender and religion, particularly related to 19th-century American feminism. She has authored *Mrs. Stanton’s Bible* (2001) and co-authored the teaching guide *Strategies for Teaching Large Classes Effectively in Higher Education* (2017). Her work in progress is *Religious Cosmopolitanism and the US Women’s Rights Movement*.

Manisha Sinha

Manisha Sinha is the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History at the University of Connecticut. A scholar of the Civil War era, Reconstruction, and American slavery and abolition, she has authored *The Counterrevolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina* (2000) and *The Slave’s Cause: A History of Abolition* (2016). Winner of numerous awards, including Yale University’s Frederick Douglass Book Prize and the Organization of American Historians’ Avery O. Craven Award for Best Book on the Civil War Era, *The Slave’s Cause* was also long listed for the 2016 National Book Award in Nonfiction. Her book in progress explores the post-Civil War “greater reconstruction” of American democracy.

WE, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

A R T I C L E I.

Sec. 1. ALL legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Sec. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to servitude for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every forty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative: and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New-Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New-Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North-Carolina five, South-Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the representation from any state, the Executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers; and they shall have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years: and each senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided, as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and of the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one-third may be chosen every second year: and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the Legislature of any state, the Executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

No person shall be a senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years, and been nine years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice-President of the United States shall be, *ex-officio*, President of the senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice-President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

Sec. 4. The times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof: but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, *except as to the place of choosing senators.*

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Sec. 5. Each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each house may provide.

Each house may determine the rules of its proceedings; punish its members for disorderly behaviour, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member.

Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either house on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither house, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting.

Sec. 6. The senators and representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either house, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments

15th Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

19th Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Left: U. S. Constitution (first printing) with annotations by Elbridge Gerry, Philadelphia: printed by John Dunlap and David C. Claypool, 1787.

A Center for Learning and Engagement

Founded in 1791, the Massachusetts Historical Society is an invaluable resource for American history, life, and culture.

With millions of pages of manuscript letters, diaries, and other documents, as well as early newspapers, broadsides, artifacts, artwork, photographs, maps, and prints, the MHS offers a wide-ranging perspective on the United States from the earliest beginnings of the nation to the present day.

The Society hosts a variety of scholarly activities aimed at a cross-section of academics and members of the public. These include seminars, conferences, grad student receptions, and brown-bag lunch programs, as well as a robust fellowship program.

MHS Response to COVID-19

Though our building is temporarily closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working remotely and offering an engaging selection of online programs, building a virtual community of scholars, delivering online resources to educators, providing access to our collection, and continuing to publish. Members of our Reader Services team are working remotely and available to assist you. Please visit www.masshist.org/library/reference for more information about the resources available to all researchers. For more information and updates related to the pandemic, please go to www.masshist.org/about/COVID-19.

Seminars

The MHS organizes seven seminar series. Presenters share their works in progress with scholars and members of the public. The steering committees for each series arrange for local commenters to provide feedback on chapter-length pieces.

- African American History Seminar
- Digital History Projects Seminar
- Dina G. Malgeri Modern American Society and Culture Seminar
- Environmental History Seminar
- History of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Seminar
- New England Biography Seminar
- Pauline Maier Early American History Seminar

Brown-bag Lunch Program

Brown-bags provide an informal opportunity for visiting researchers to discuss their work, field questions, and receive new ideas.

Research Fellowships

The MHS supports over 50 fellowships per year including

- long-term fellowships supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities for up to 12 months of residency at the MHS;
- the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium for research at 30 New England archives and research libraries;
- the Suzanne and Caleb Loring Fellowship on the Civil War, Its Origins, and Consequences for research at the MHS and the Boston Athenæum;
- short-term fellowships for research in a range of topics such as African American, religious, women's, and military history among others.

Massachusetts Historical Review

The *Massachusetts Historical Review* (MHR), the Society's scholarly journal, offers pieces rich in narrative detail and thoughtful analysis. Beginning in 2021, each issue will focus on a specific theme linked to a particular event in Massachusetts history. Essays themselves need not be limited to Massachusetts or New England history as long as they connect to the theme of the volume.

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