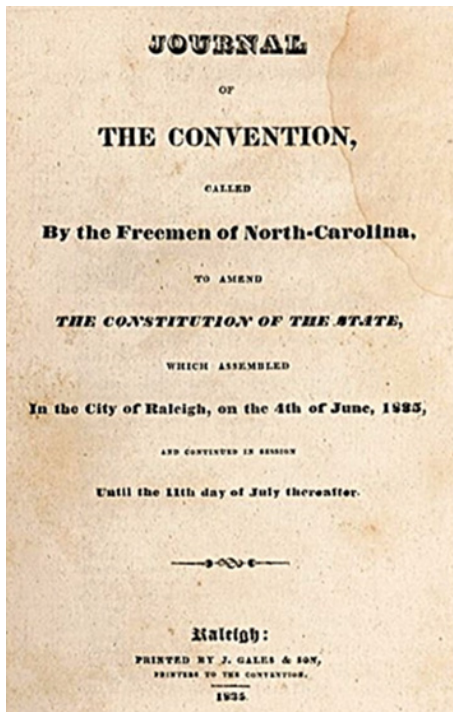


Name _____ ANSWER KEY

Date _____ Class _____

BACKGROUND: 1835 Constitutional Amendments



Journal of the Convention, State publications collection, State Library of N.C.

The 1835 Convention Brings Change

By the mid-1830s, most voters in North Carolina believed that the 1776 state constitution needed to change. Because there was no provision for amendment, the General Assembly called for a constitutional convention. Most counties and larger towns were in the eastern part of the state, which meant more representatives in the legislature, but the area west of Raleigh had a larger population. Debates during the convention included separate legislative seats for towns, voting rights for free men of color, and religious requirements for office holders. The Nat Turner Rebellion of 1831 had taken place just north of the state border and increased fears of enslaved revolt. Rumors circulated about the involvement of free Blacks, and suspicion grew with discrimination.

130 delegates met in Raleigh in 1835 to change the constitution.

- Amendments gave more power to the western part of the state in the General Assembly by eliminating separate town seats.
- The governor would be elected by popular vote and serve a two-year term.
- Office-holding requirements changed from Protestant to Christian.
- Unfortunately, free Black and American Indian men lost the right to vote.

Quick Fact Check

1. Where was the majority of North Carolina's population in the mid-1830s?

The western part of the state

2. What groups were negatively impacted by the updates to the constitution?

Black and American Indian men lost the right to vote; Eastern elites lost power

3. How did the government react to the Nat Turner Rebellion?

Limiting the power of free men of color

4. Name one change to the requirement for holding office.

Answers can include: The popular vote, two-year term, religious requirements

Why Was the Greek Revival Style so Popular?

Inspired by the classical Greek temple, the Greek Revival style was common during the early to mid-1800s. During this time, Americans were fascinated by all things classical, Roman and Greek. Many viewed their country as reviving ancient Greek and Roman ideals by establishing a democratic republic. The Greeks invented democracy and represented learning. Romans had a republic and build a great empire through military strength.



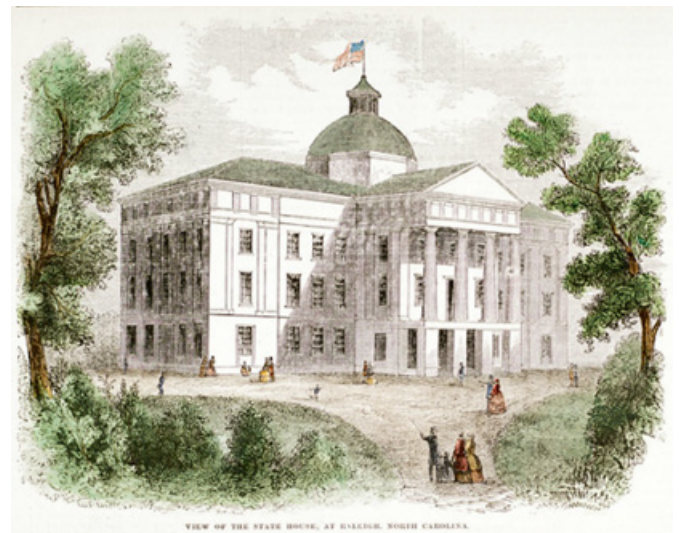
First State House, Raleigh, 1811, watercolor by J. S. Glennie, State Capitol collection

Did You Know?

When the delegates assembled in Raleigh for the constitutional convention of 1835, a new capitol building was under construction? Raleigh was established as the capitol city in 1792, and the first state house was built four years later in 1796. The building was then remodeled in the 1820s before being destroyed by a fire in 1831.



First State House after addition, 1820s-1831, colored drawing by William Goodacre, State Capitol collection



State Capitol, 1852, Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion, original print collection 180, State Archives of N.C.