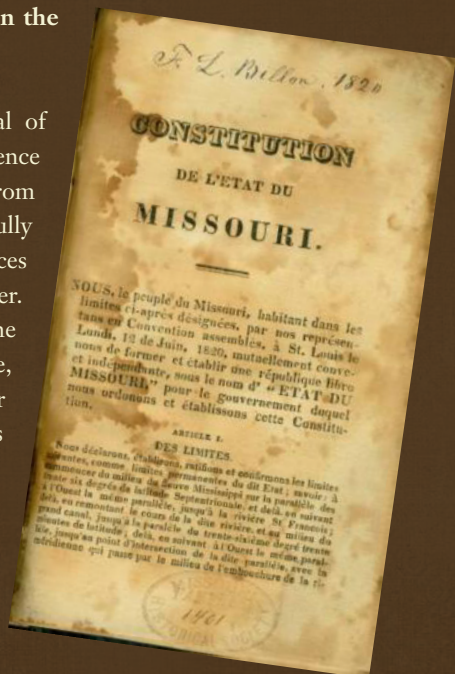


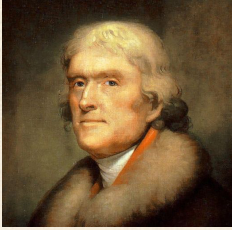
A CONFERENCE ON THE MISSOURI STATEHOOD CRISIS OF 1819-1821



Many new states entered the United States around 200 years ago, but only Missouri almost killed the union it sought to join. On February 13, 1819, the bills for admitting Missouri and Alabama were making their way through Congress when Rep. James Tallmadge of New York stopped Missouri flat. Tallmadge proposed an amendment to “substantially limit the existence of slavery” in a place where enslaved workers had lived since colonial times and to which thousands more were in the process of being brought, sent, or sold by slaveowners from Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. When the Tallmadge Amendment passed the House, with northern members breaking old party lines in support, it was the most significant blow struck against the expansion of American slavery since the Northwest Ordinance. The republic shook awake to a long-simmering but submerged issue, Missourians exploded in rage, and the older southern slave states rallied to neutralize the threat to what they called their rights. To resolve this crisis over Missouri’s admission, it would take two years of bitter debate and a series of dangerous compromises that divided the continent for the first time into the sections that would eventually go to war with each other in 1861. For **Thomas Jefferson**, the Missouri controversy and the geographic divide it created rung out “**like a fire bell in the night**” warning of the troubles to come.

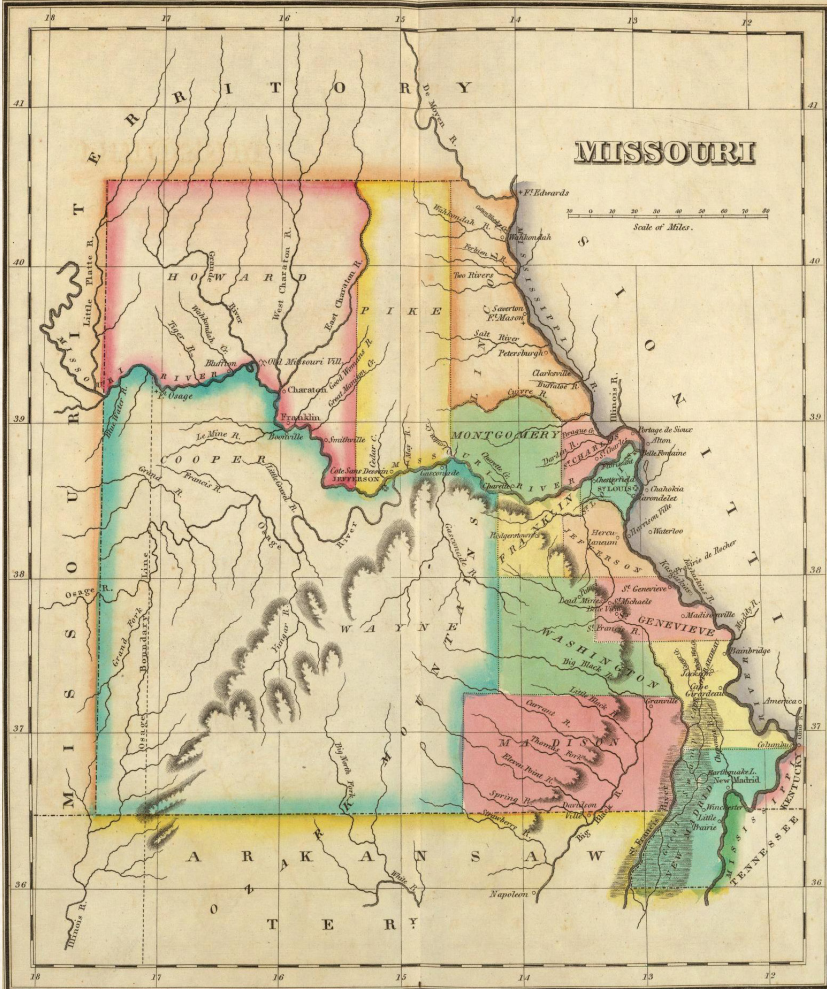
Marking the start of the long bicentennial of Missouri’s controversial origins, this conference gathers established and rising historians from around the world and around the state to fully canvass the origins, events, and consequences of the Missouri Crisis for the first time ever. Scholars from all fields and members of the community are invited to listen and participate, as the contributors present and debate their ideas in preparation for a book on the crisis to be published by the Kinder Institute and University of Missouri Press during the year of the true bicentennial, 2021. Registration is free at missouricrisisat200.eventbrite.com.





This momentous question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union . . . a geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper.

~ Thomas Jefferson



A Fire Bell in the Past

RE-ASSESSING THE MISSOURI CRISIS AT 200

FEBRUARY 15 - 16, 2019



Kinder Institute on
Constitutional Democracy
University of Missouri

A Fire Bell in the Past

RE-ASSESSING THE MISSOURI CRISIS AT 200

All events held at the **Palmer Room, Reynolds Journalism Institute** (401 S 9th St.), 1st floor, unless otherwise noted.

FRIDAY, February 15

8:30 am -10:15 am

WELCOME: Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe (State of Missouri)

1-The Origins of the Missouri Crisis

CHAIR: Jay Sexton (MU/Kinder Institute & History)

Bobby Lee (Harvard University), "The Boon's Lick Land Rush and the Coming of the Missouri Crisis"

Diane Mutti-Burke (UMKC), "Jefferson's Fire-Bell: Slavery in the American Borderlands"

James Gigantino (University of Arkansas), "The First Compromise: Slavery and the Arkansas Territory, 1819"

10:30 am -12:15 pm

2-The North vs. Missouri: The Emergence of Antislavery Politics

CHAIR: Ken Owen (University of Illinois-Springfield)

Asaf Almog (University of Virginia), "New England and the Missouri Crisis: The Shifting Boundaries of Compromise"

Sarah L.H. Gronningsater (University of Pennsylvania), "The New Yorkers? What Were They Thinking? The Origins of the Tallmadge Amendment"

Matthew White (Ohio State), "'Under the Influence of the Excitement Then Universal': Pennsylvania's Missouri Crisis and the Viability of Anti-Slavery Politics"

12:30-1:30pm LUNCH TALK

David Waldstreicher (City University of New York), "How John Quincy Adams Shaped the Missouri Crisis and How the Missouri Crisis Shaped John Quincy Adams"

1:45 pm -3:15 pm

3-Founders and Sons

CHAIR: Lorri Glover (Saint Louis University)

David Gellman (DePauw University), "Sharing the Flame: John Jay, Missouri and Memory"

Gary Sellick (*Papers of Thomas Jefferson*), "'Like Quarrelling Lovers, to Renewed Embraces': The Sage of Monticello and the Missouri Compromise"

Samuel Postell (University of Dallas), "The Political Education of Henry Clay"

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

4-The Missouri Crisis in a Wider World

CHAIR: Alyssa Zuercher Reichardt (MU/Kinder Institute & History)

Peter Kastor (Washington University), "The Multinational History of Missouri Statehood and the Re-imagining of North American Politics"

Tangi Villerbu (University of La Rochelle), "Ste Genevieve in 1820: An Atlantic History"

Martin Öhman (University of Gothenburg), "An Era of a Systematic Contest': Friends of Industry, International Competition, and the Missouri Question"

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm RECEPTION *Sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council*

Reynolds Alumni Center, Conley Ave.

7:00 pm COMMUNITY DINNER & PUBLIC LECTURE

Stephen Aron (UCLA), "The End of the Beginning and the Beginning of the End in the Middle: Putting the Crisis over Missouri Statehood in Its Historical Place"

Reynolds Alumni Center, Conley Ave.

SATURDAY, February 16

9:00 am - 10:00 am

5-Before Dred Scott: Practicing and Debating Black Citizenship

CHAIR: Daive Dunkley (MU/Black Studies & History)

Anne Twitty (University of Mississippi), "Litigating Freedom During the Missouri Crisis"

Andy Lang (City University of New York), "A Second Compromise? Antislavery Politics and the Black Citizenship Debate in the Missouri Crisis"

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

6-The Slaveholders Respond

CHAIR: W. Stephen Belko (Missouri Humanities Council)

John Van Atta (Brunswick School), "At War with Equal Rights: The Missouri Crisis in Southern Eyes"

Christa Dierksheide (MU/Kinder Institute & History), "Slavery, Diffusion, and State Formation in the Era of the Missouri Crisis"

Lawrence Celani (University of Missouri), "Missouri and the Afterlife of Slavery in Illinois"

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

7- Cultural Conflicts and Compromises

CHAIR: Lily Santoro (Southeast Missouri State University)

Edward Green (MU/Kinder Institute & History), "The Shadow of the British: Western Frontier Diplomacy in the Era of the Missouri Crisis"

Lucas Volkman (Moberly Area Community College), "Geography of Contention: The Missouri Crisis and the Frontier Dynamics of Religious Strife"

Samuel Cohen (MU/English), "Manuscripts, Mysteries, & Mulattoes: *Clotel*, *Puddn'head Wilson*, and the Exclusion Clause of 1820"

2:45 pm - 4:15 pm

8-The Missouri Controversy and Constitutional Democracy

CHAIR: Jonathan Gienapp (Stanford University)

Aaron Hall (University of California-Berkeley), "The Missouri Crisis of Constitutional Authority"

Chris Childers (Pittsburg State University), "The Missouri Crisis and the Uncontested Reelection of James Monroe"

Jason Duncan (Aquinas College), "Southern Influence and African Slavery: Martin Van Buren, Party Building, and the Legacy of the Missouri Crisis, 1819-1836"

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

9-The Long Shadow of the Missouri Crisis

CHAIR: Robert Pierce Forbes (Southern Connecticut State University)

Nicholas Wood (Spring Hill College), "Doughface: The Origins and Political Legacy of an Antebellum Political Insult"

Ron Hatzenbuehler (Idaho State University), "Lincoln's Rubicon: Congress's Repeal of the Missouri Compromise"

Zach Dowdle (State Historical Society of Missouri & MU/History), "'For a Few Thousand Slaves...the Whole Continent Shook': Border State Free-soil Politics and the Long Shadow of the Missouri Compromise"

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Kinder Institute Seminar Room, 410 Jesse Hall

10- Closing Roundtable

CHAIR: Gary Kremer (State Historical Society of Missouri)

Jeffrey L. Pasley (MU/Kinder Institute & History)

Matthew Mason (Brigham Young University)

John Craig Hammond (Pennsylvania State University)