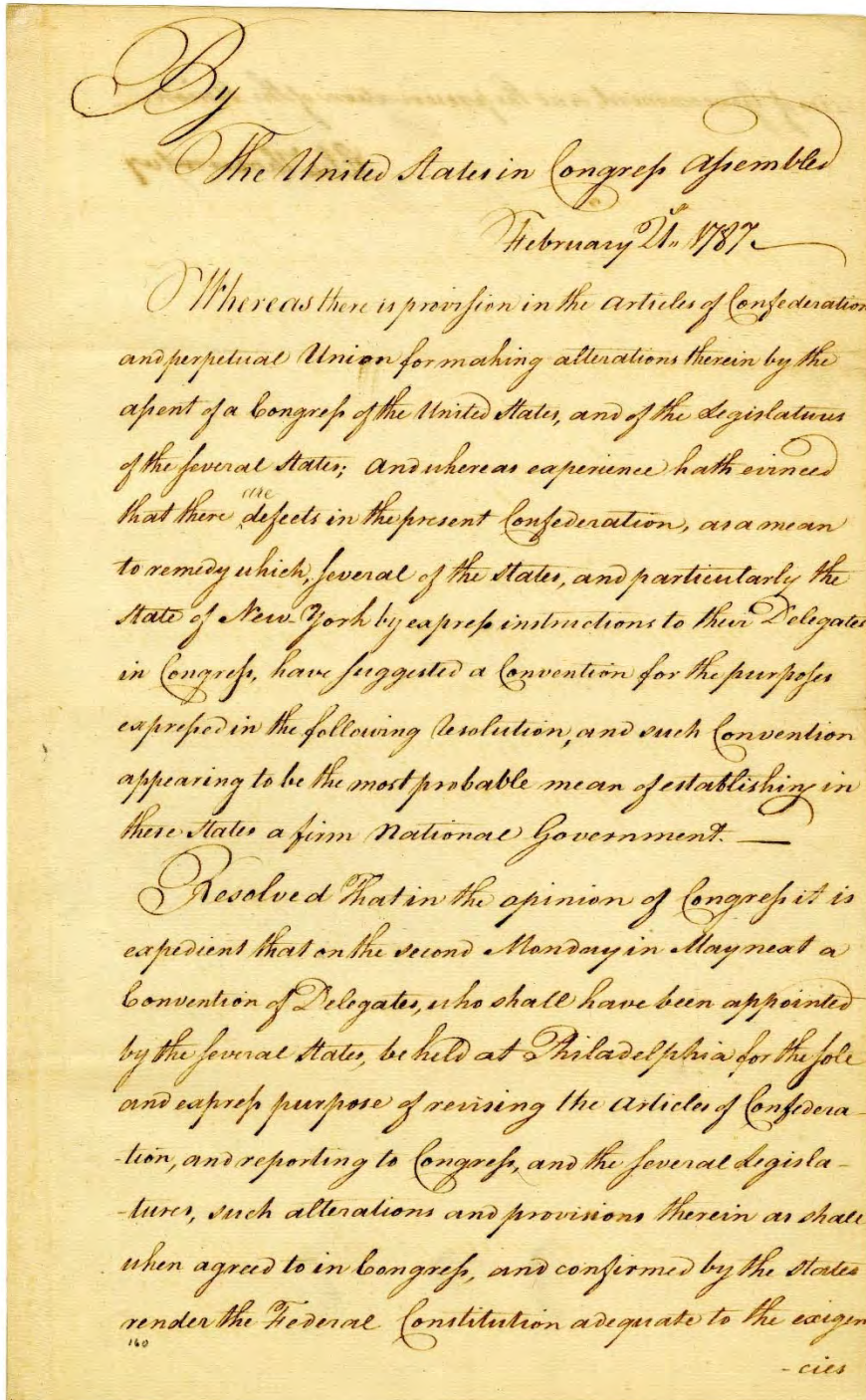




# 1. Resolution of the United States Congress to appoint delegates to the Constitutional Convention, 21 February 1787.

Source: Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection, Box 1-15, #113.



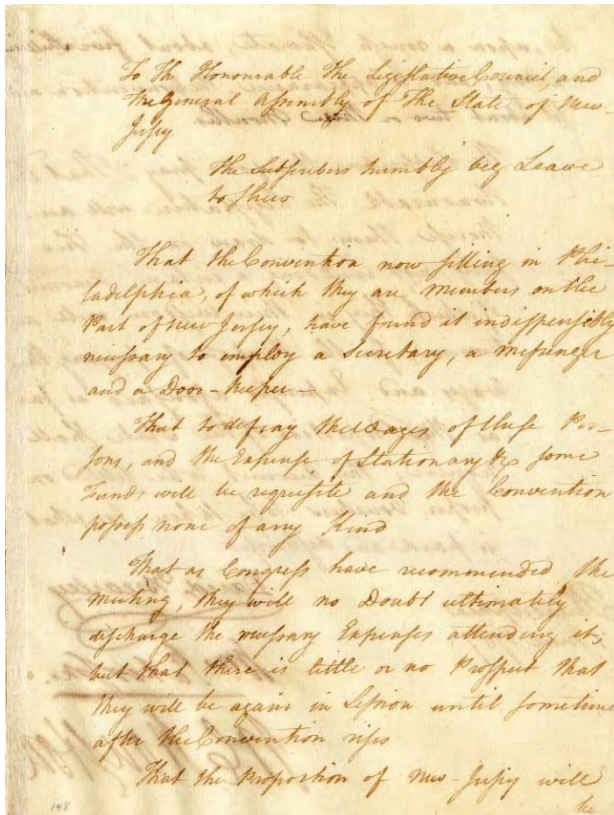
The image shows a handwritten manuscript on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script. At the top, it reads "By The United States in Congress assembled February 21<sup>st</sup> 1787". Below this, there is a long paragraph starting with "Whereas there is provision in the articles of Confederation and perpetual Union for making alterations therein by the assent of a Congress of the United States, and of the Legislatures of the several States; and whereas experience hath evinced that there are defects in the present Confederation, as a mean to remedy which, several of the States, and particularly the State of New York by express instructions to their Delegates in Congress, have suggested a Convention for the purposes expressed in the following Resolution, and such Convention appearing to be the most probable mean of establishing in these States a firm National Government. —". This is followed by a resolution: "Resolved That in the opinion of Congress it is expedient that on the second Monday in May next a Convention of Delegates, who shall have been appointed by the several States, be held at Philadelphia for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation, and reporting to Congress, and the several Legislatures, such alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the States render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies...". The word "exigencies" is partially cut off at the bottom of the page. There is a small number "160" written in the bottom left corner of the page.

“By  
The United States in Congress  
assembled  
February 21, 1787  
Whereas there is provision in the  
Articles of Confederation and  
perpetual Union for making  
alterations therein by the assent  
of a Congress of the United  
States, and of the Legislatures of  
the several States; and whereas  
experience hath evinced that  
there are defects in the present  
Confederation, as a mean to  
remedy which, several of the  
States, and particularly the State  
of New York by express  
instructions to their Delegates in  
Congress, have suggested a  
Convention for the purposes  
expressed in the following  
resolution; and such Convention  
appearing to be the most  
probable mean of establishing in  
these States a firm National  
Government.  
Resolved That in the opinion of  
Congress it is expedient that on  
the second Monday in May next  
a Convention of Delegates, who  
shall have been appointed by the  
several states, be held at  
Philadelphia for the sole and  
express purpose of revising the  
Articles of Confederation, and  
reporting to Congress, and the  
several Legislatures, such

alterations and provisions therein as shall when agreed to in Congress, and confirmed by the states render the Federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies ...”

## 2. Petition of Constitutional Convention delegates to the New Jersey Legislature to pay a proportion of certain costs, 1 June 1787.

Source: Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection, Box 1-15, #120.



To the Honourable the Legislative Council and  
the General Assembly of the State of New  
Jersey

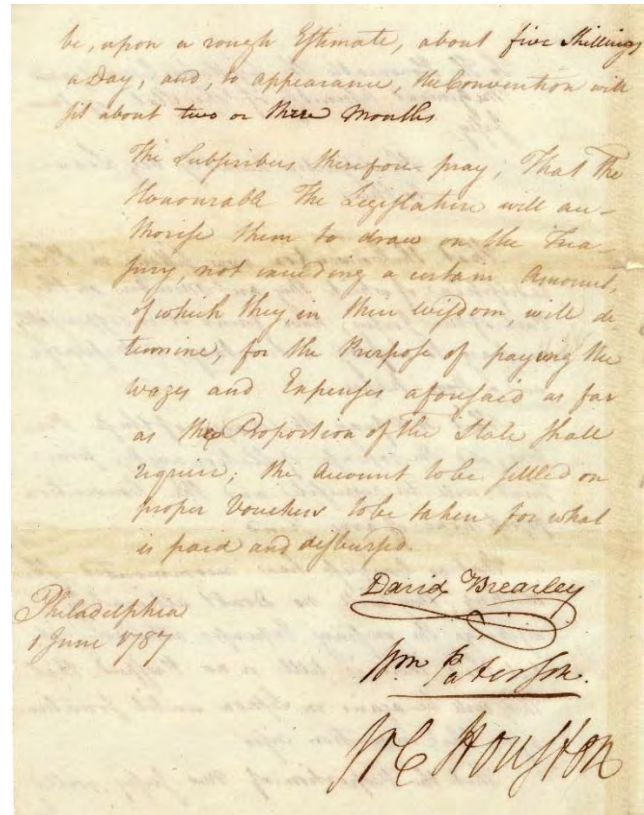
The Subscribers humbly beg Leave  
to shew

That the Convention now sitting in Phi-  
ladelphia, of which they are Members on the  
Part of New Jersey, have found it indifferently  
necessary to employ a Secretary, a Messenger  
and a Door-keeper -

That to defray the wages of these Per-  
sons, and the Expense of Stationary, &c some  
Funds will be requisite and the Convention  
possess none of any Kind

That as Congress have recommended the  
Meeting, they will no Doubt ultimately  
discharge the necessary Expenses attending it;  
but that there is little or no Prospect that  
they will be again in Session until sometime  
after the Convention rises

That the Proportion of New Jersey will be



be, upon a rough Estimate, about five Shillings  
a Day, and, to Appearance, the Convention will  
sit about two or three Months

The Subscribers therefore pray, That the  
Honourable the Legislature will au-  
thorise them to draw on the Treas-  
ury, not exceeding a certain Amount,  
of which they, in their Wisdom, will de-  
termine, for the Purpose of paying the  
Wages and Expenses aforesaid as far  
as the Proportion of the State shall  
require; the Account to be settled on  
proper Voucher to be taken for what  
is paid and disbursed.

Philadelphia  
1 June 1787

David Brearley  
Wm Paterson  
W.C. Houston

“To the Honourable the Legislative Council, and the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey  
The Subscribers humbly beg Leave to shew:

That the Convention now sitting in Philadelphia, of which they are Members on the Part of  
New Jersey, have found it indifferently necessary to employ a Secretary, a Messenger and a  
Door-keeper.

That to defray the wages of these Persons, and the Expense of Stationary, &c, some Funds  
will be requisite and the Convention possess none of any Kind.

That as Congress have recommended the Meeting, they will no Doubt ultimately discharge  
the necessary Expenses attending it; but that there is little or no Prospect that they will be again in  
Session until sometime after the Convention rises.

That the Proportion of New Jersey will be, upon a rough Estimate, about five Shillings a Day,  
and, to Appearance, the Convention will sit about two or three Months.

The Subscribers therefore pray, That the Honourable The Legislature will authorise them to  
draw on the Treasury, not exceeding a certain Amount, of which they, in their Wisdom, will  
determine, for the Purpose of paying the Wages and Expenses aforesaid as far as the Proportion of  
the State shall require; the Account to be settled on proper Voucher to be taken for what is paid  
and disbursed.

Philadelphia  
1 June 1787

David Brearley  
Wm. Paterson  
W.C. Houston”

### 3. Transmittal of draft Constitution to the New Jersey Legislature, 25 October 1787.

Source: Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection, Box OV-2.

The Commissioners Appointed by joint meeting of the Legislature to meet Commissioners of the other States in the Union, at the City of Philadelphia, in the Month of May last, for the purpose of taking into consideration the State of the Union &c. beg leave to report to this honorable House, that in pursuance of their appointment they met the Commissioners of eleven of the other States in the Union at Philadelphia, and thereupon entered upon the business of their appointment.

That the Commissioners so convened did after long and serious deliberation & with no small difficulty, finally agree upon a plan, for the Government of the said United States, which together with the other Acts of the Convention were by them transmitted to the honorable the Congress of the United States. - Copies of the same are herewith annexed.

All which are, by your Commissioners, most humbly submitted to this honorable House.

Brenton 25. October 1787.

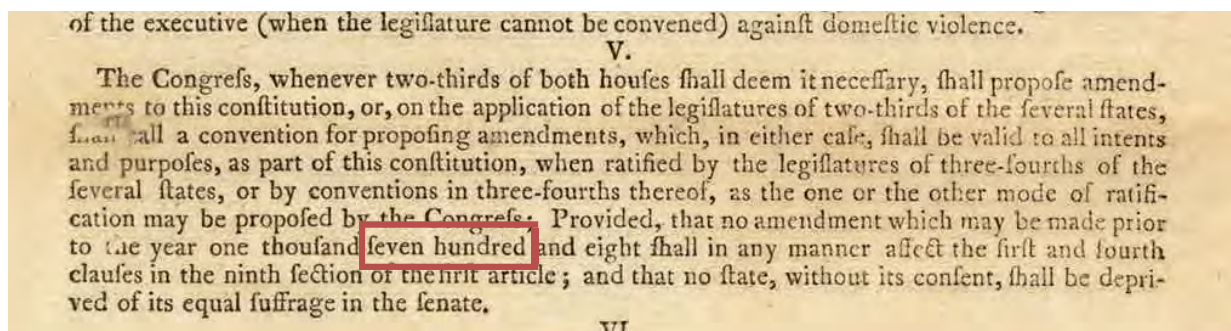
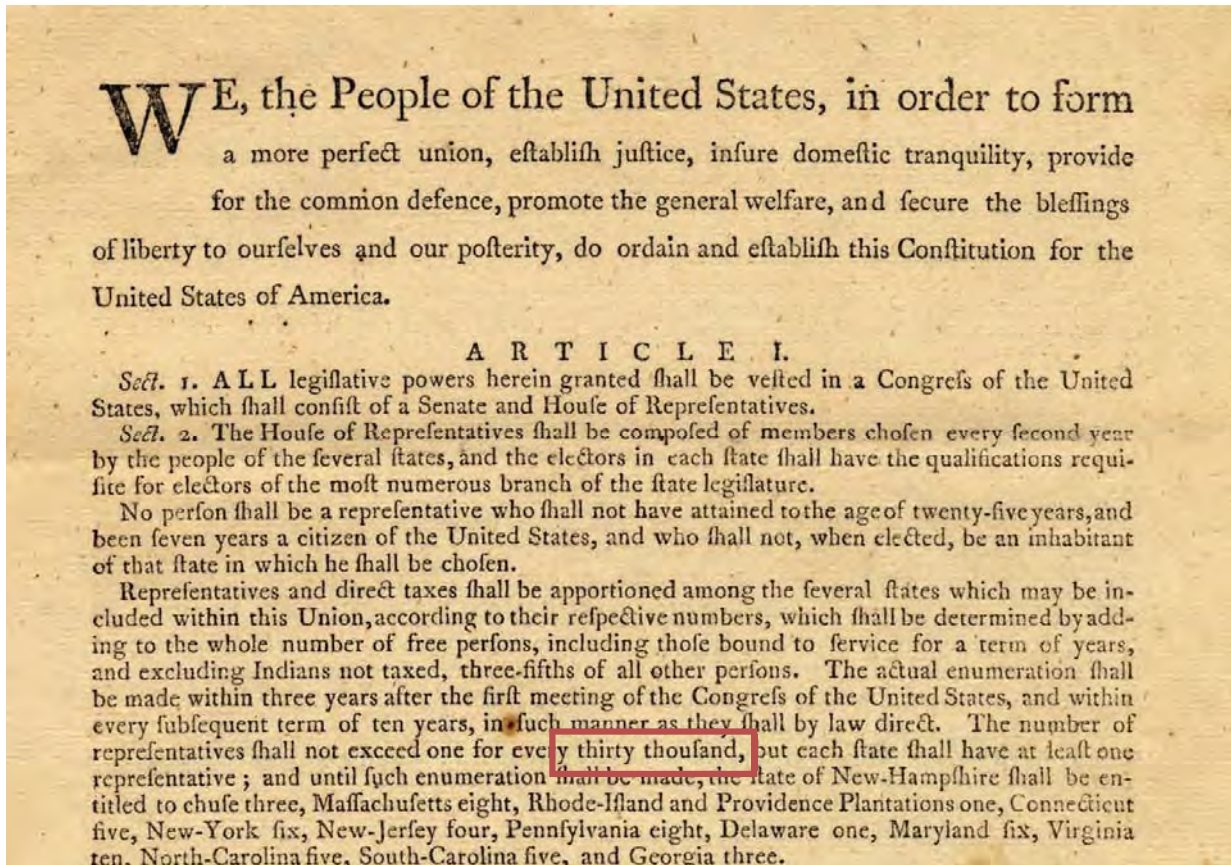
Wm. Livingston  
David Brearley  
W. C. Houston  
Jona: Dayton

46

This letter transmitted the first public printing of the United States Constitution to the State of New Jersey. William C. Houston did not sign as, he had to withdraw from the conference in early June for health reasons.

#### 4. First public printing of United States Constitution by Dunlap and Claypoole, 17 September 1787.

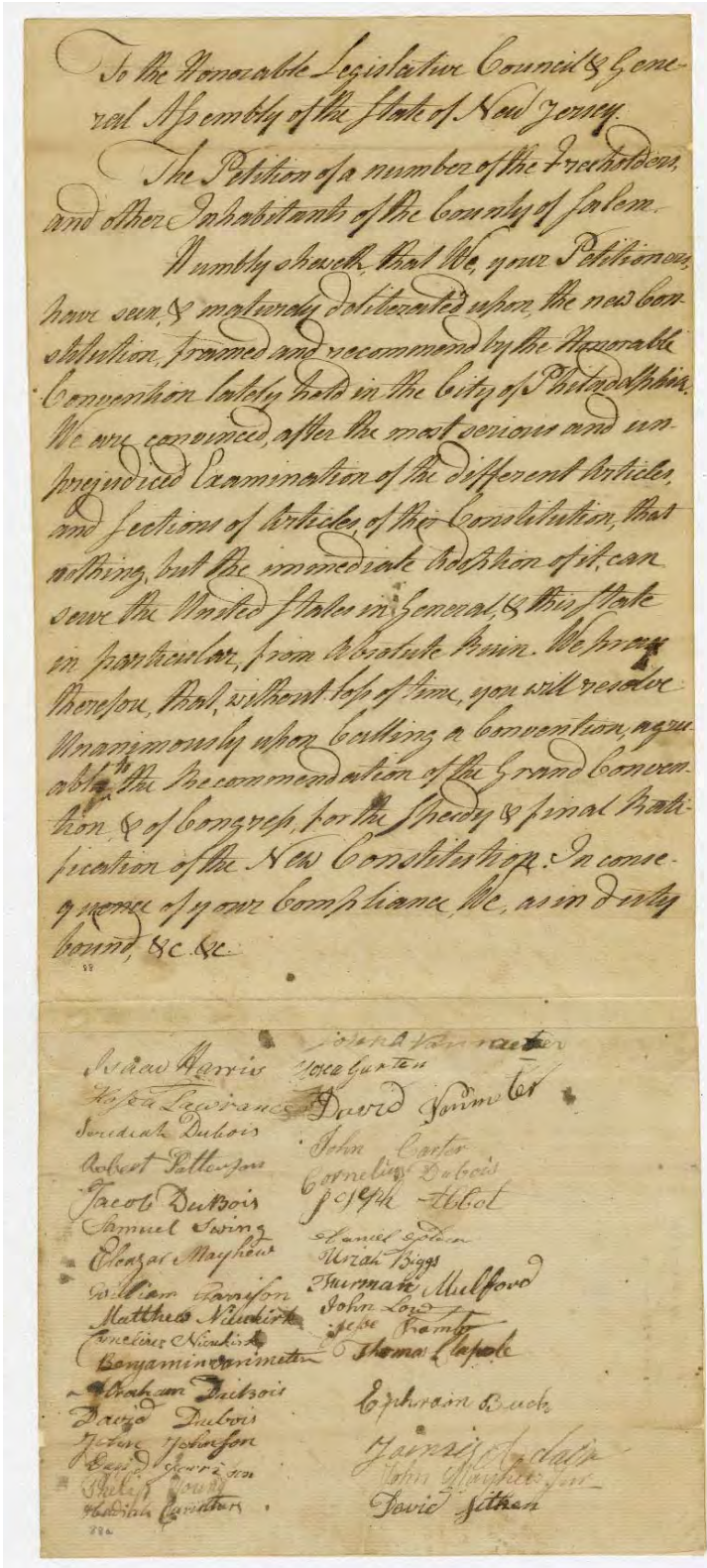
Source: Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection, Box OV-2.



After the Constitutional Convention agreed on the text of the new federal charter, they sent it to the printers, Dunlap and Claypoole. Copies were to be distributed to Congress and the state legislatures. However, days later, the formula for congressional representation from each state was changed from one for every 40,000 to one for every 30,000. While the correction was made and new copies were printed, an additional error was missed. The Constitution was supposed to state that slave trade could not be legislatively addressed until 1808. However, in the printing, it shows 1708.

**5. Petition of inhabitants of Salem County to the New Jersey Legislature urging ratification of the Constitution, [1787].**

Source: Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection, Box 1-15, #112.



To the Honorable Legislative Council & General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

The Petition of a number of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the County of Salem

Humbly sheweth, that We, your Petitioners, have seen, & maturely deliberated upon, the new Constitution framed and recommended by the Honorable Convention lately held in the City of Philadelphia. We are convinced, after the most serious and unprejudiced Examination of the different Articles, and sections of Articles, of this Constitution, that nothing, but the immediate Adoption of it, can save the United States in General, & this State in particular, from Absolute Ruin. We pray therefore, that, without loss of time, you will resolve Unanimously upon Calling a Convention, agreeably to the Recommendation of the Grand Convention & of the Congress, for the Speedy & final Ratification of the New Constitution, We, as in duty bound, &c. &c."

[signed by 33 Salem County residents]

6. Order of the New Jersey Assembly to present the bill authorizing a ratification convention to the Legislative Council (precursor to the State Senate), 30 October 1787.

Source: Secretary of State's Office, AM Papers, #1129.

House of Assembly October 30. 1787

Ordered That Mr. Clark do carry the Bill intituled  
an Act to authorize the People of this State  
to meet in Convention deliberate upon agree to  
and ratify the Constitution for the United States  
proposed by the late General Convention  
to the Council and request their concurrence  
therein

By order of the House  
Maskell Ewing Clerk

"House of Assembly October 30, 1787

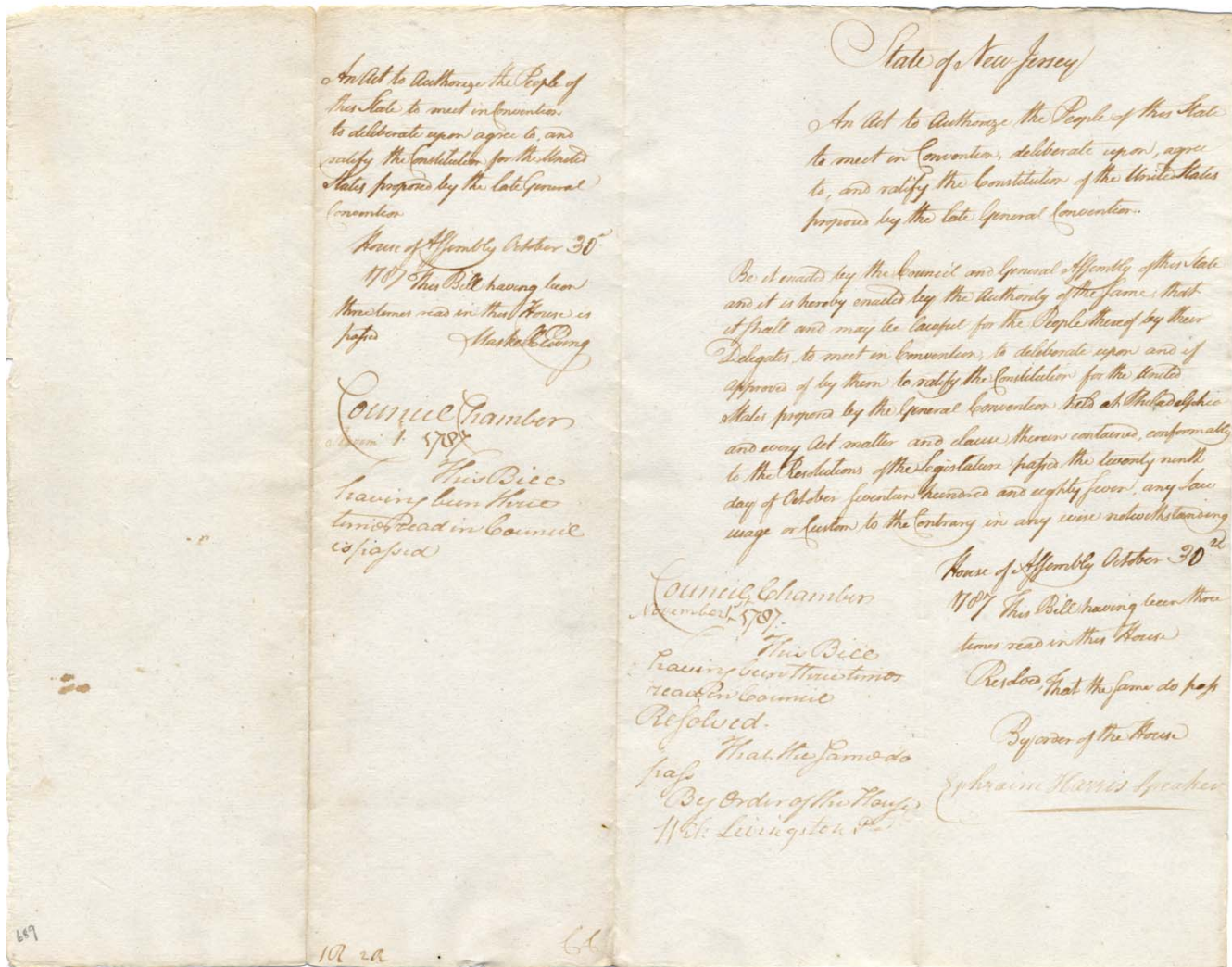
Ordered

That Mr. Clark do carry the Bill intituled "An Act to Authorize the People of this State to meet in Convention deliberate upon agree to and ratify the Constitution for the United States proposed by the late General Convention" to the Council and request their concurrence therein.

By order of the House  
Maskell Ewing, Clerk"

7. "An Act to authorize the People of this State to meet in Convention, deliberate upon, agree to, and ratify the Constitution of the United States ...," 1 November 1787.

Source: Secretary of State's Office, Enrolled Laws.



"State of New Jersey

An Act to Authorize the People of this State to meet in Convention, deliberate upon, agree to, and ratify the Constitution of the United States proposed by the late General Convention.

Be it enacted by the Council and General Assembly of this State and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for the People thereof by their Delegates to meet in Convention, to deliberate upon and if approved of by them to ratify the Constitution for the United States proposed by the General Convention held at Philadelphia and every Act matter and clause therein contained, conformably to the Resolutions of the Legislators passed the twenty ninth day of October seventeen hundred and eighty seven, any Law usage or Custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding ..."

Passed by the Assembly, October 30, 1787, approved by the Legislative Council and signed by Governor Livingston on November 1.

8. Order for Isaac Collins to print 500 copies of the legislative resolution authorizing a ratification convention, 30 October 1787.

Source: Secretary of State's Office, AM Papers, #1129.

House of Assembly October 30 1787

Resolved That Isaac Collins be directed to print or strike off 500 Copies of the Resolutions of the Legislature of October 29 1787 recommending to the people of the State to meet by their delegates in Convention for the purpose of taking into Consideration the Constitution of the Federal Government proposed by the late General Convention

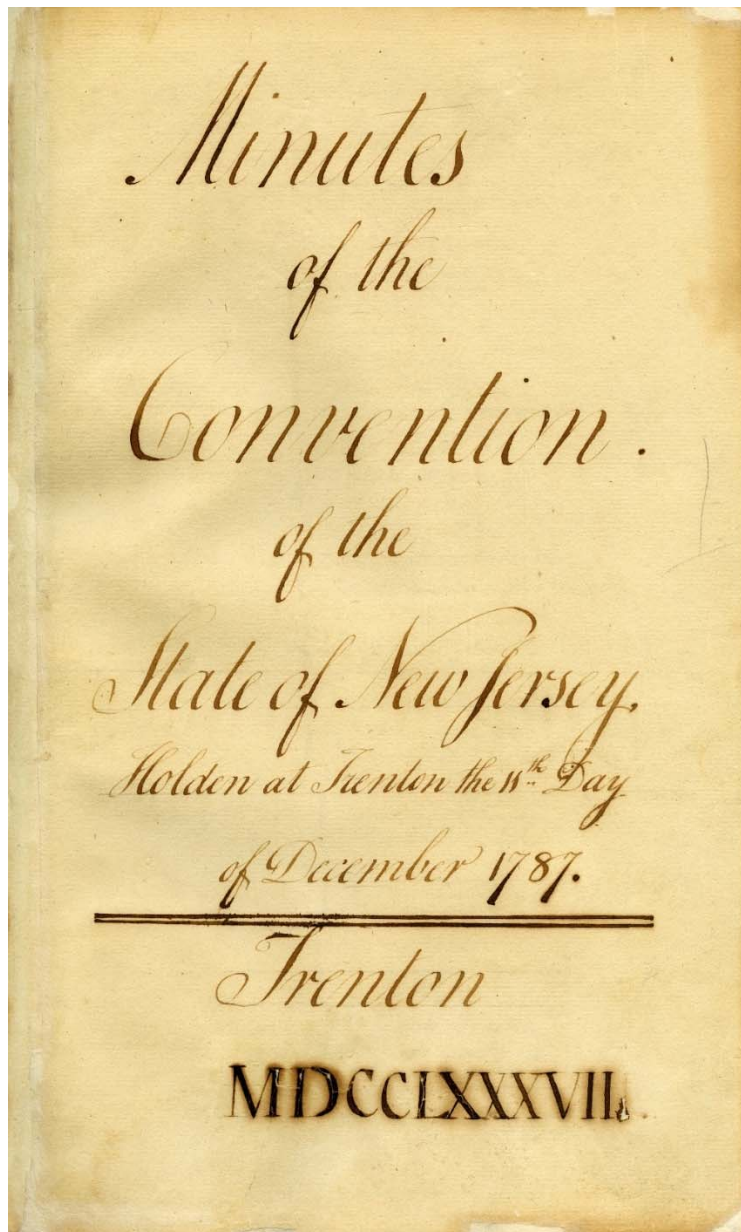
Ordered That Mr Beadle do carry the said Resolution to the Council for concurrence

By order of the House  
Markell Livingston

Isaac Collins (1746-1817) was a master printer who located his shop in Trenton in 1778. Besides printing various publications for the New Jersey government, he also printed the first Bible in New Jersey and established the first permanent newspaper in the state, the *New Jersey Gazette*.

**9. Minutes of the convention to ratify the United States Constitution, December 1787.**

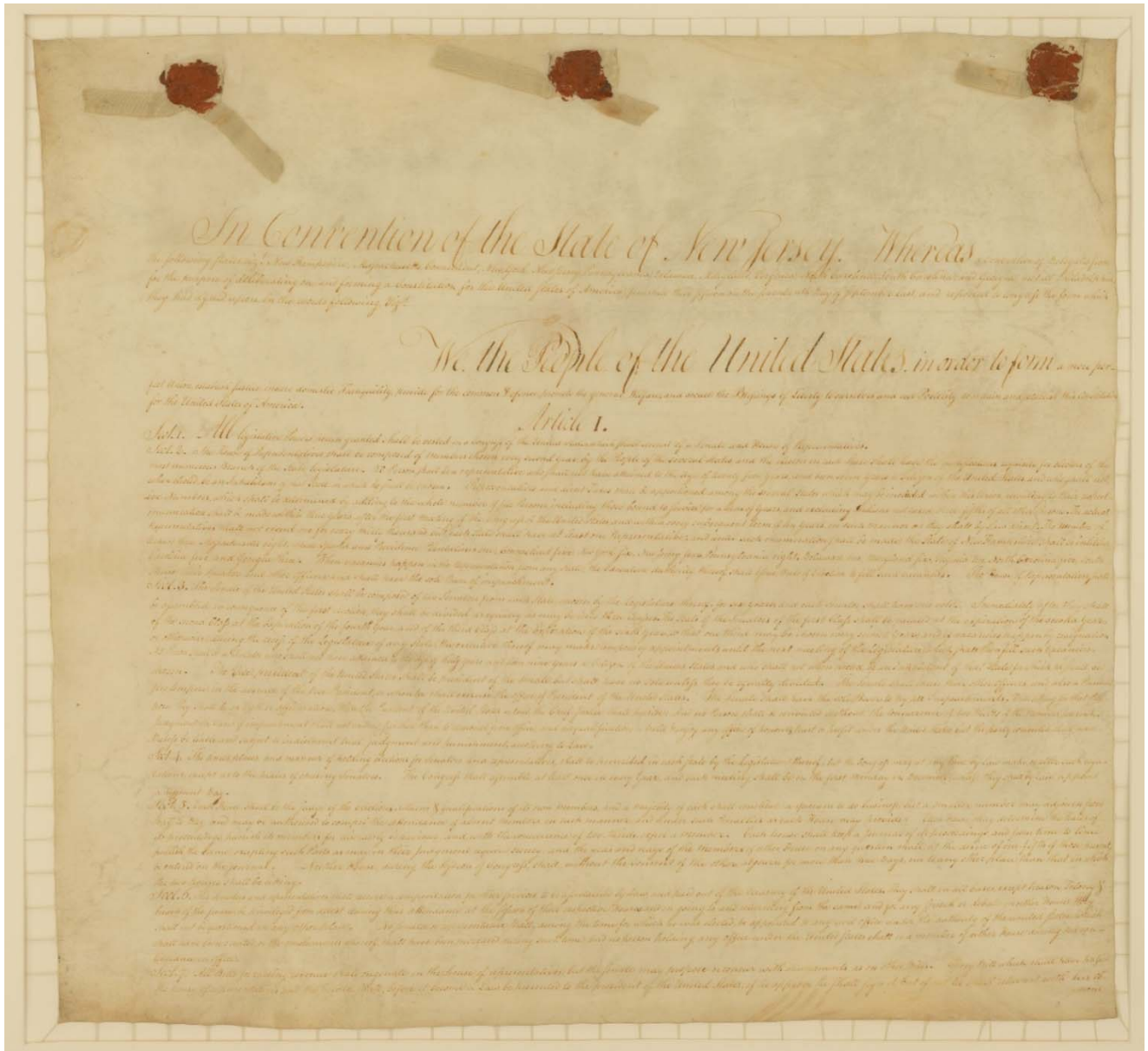
*Source: Convention to Ratify the United States Constitution, Minutes, 1787.*



On 18 December 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the United States Constitution. The minutes of the ratification convention document the quick work of the delegates. The absence of debate and the ready adoption of the proposed federal charter reflect the people of New Jersey's dissatisfaction with the Articles of Confederation. The delegates required only six days to establish rules, review the document, and complete their deliberations. On the seventh day, the delegates present unanimously approved the Constitution for the State of New Jersey. Of the thirty-nine elected to represent the thirteen New Jersey counties existing at that time, all but Samuel Dick of Salem County attended.

# 10. New Jersey's Ratification of the United States Constitution, 18 December 1787, page 1.

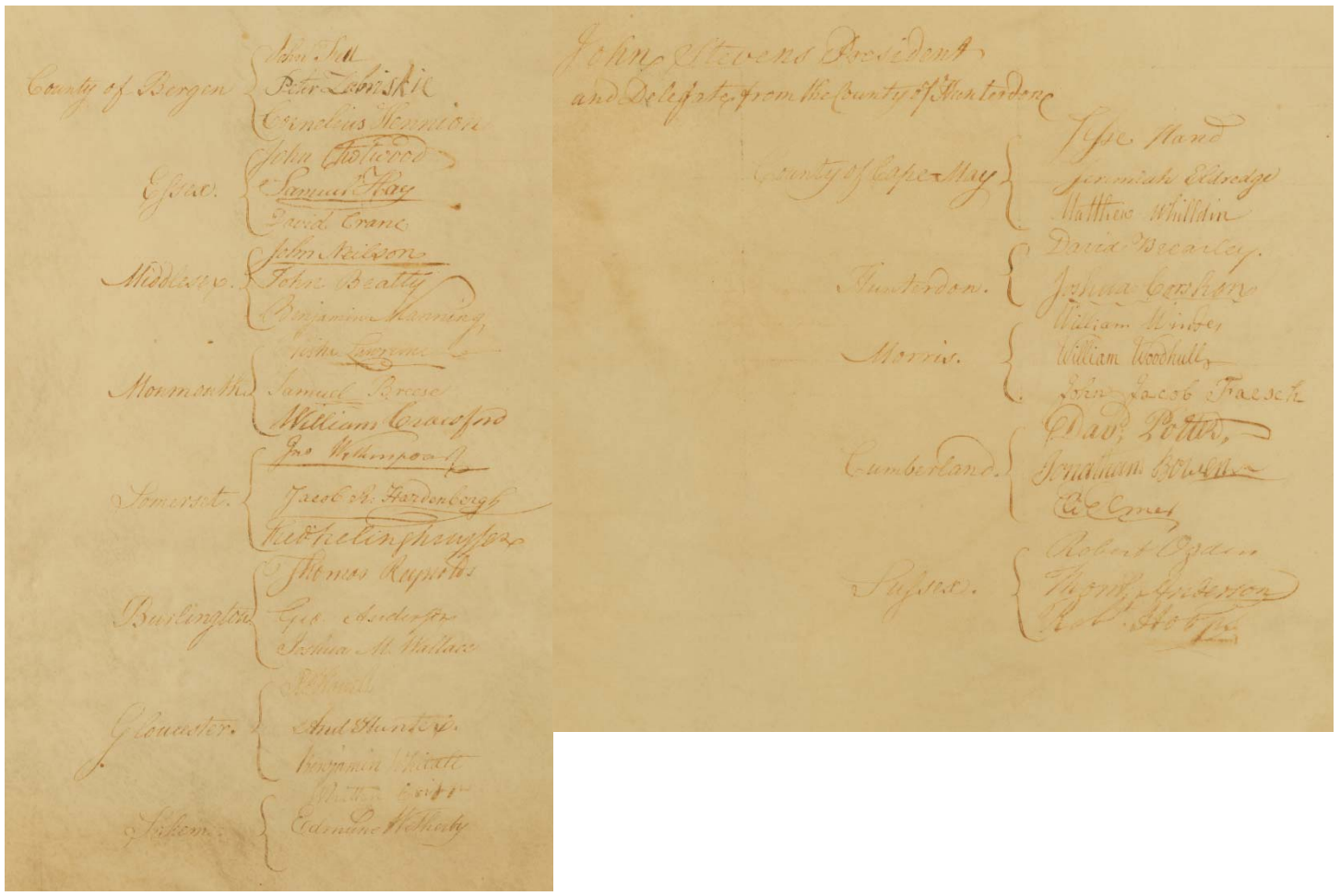
Source: Secretary of State's Office, Miscellaneous Filings.



Following the unanimous approval of the federal constitution by New Jersey's ratification convention on 18 December 1787, the delegates directed their secretary to engross the ratification on parchment for signature. Two copies were ordered: "one for the Congress of the United States, and the other to be deposited among the Archives of this State." The latter document – consisting of 4 large parchments – was originally kept in the Office of the Secretary of State with other statutory filings. The document contains the full text of the Constitution, the form of ratification, and the original signatures of 38 delegates, and convention secretary Samuel W. Stockton's attestation.

*The Archives of this State.*

**New Jersey's Ratification of the United States Constitution, 18 December 1787,  
page 4 (not exhibited).**



John Stevens, President and Delegate from the County of Hunterdon

County of Bergen	John Fell Peter Zabriskie, Cornelius Hennion	County of Cape May	Jesse Hand Jeremiah Eldredge Matthew Whilldin
Essex	John Chetwood Samuel Hay David Crane	Hunterdon	David Brearley Joshua Corshon
Middlesex	John Neilson John Beatty Benjamin Manning	Morris	William Windes William Woodhull, John Jacob Faesch
Monmouth	Elisha Lawrence Samuel Breese William Crawford	Cumberland	David Potter Jonathan Bowen Eli Elmer
Somerset	Jno. Witherspoon Jacob R. Hardenbergh Theo. Frelinghuysen	Sussex	Robert Ogden Thomas Anderson Robt. Hoops
Burlington	Thomas Reynolds Geo. Anderson Joshua M. Wallace		
Gloucester	R. Howell And. Hunter Benjamin Whitall		
Salem	Whitton Cripps Edmund Wetherby		

Attested Saml. W. Stockton, Secy.

