# SERIES 1, VOLUME 2
# VOLUME OVERVIEW

The previous volume (Vol. 1), covering January and February 1861, mentions a discussion over a printing bill and a military bill; Volume 2, covering the months of March and April, continues the debate on both issues, as well as the Metropolitan Police Bill. It sees their resolution in the case of the printing bill and the Police Bill, but the military bill does not yet pass. The bill to establish an "official newspaper" is referred to as "Niedner's Printing Bill," and it gives the *Bulletin* the legal advertisements of St. Louis County, which one correspondent describes as a "deliberate, villainous scheme to make" Missourians support secessionism.[1] There is a detailed report on the debate in the state legislature over the Niedner Bill, the *Bulletin*, and its ownership, and a separate article with the full text of the bill, which allows exclusive publication of legal notices in St. Louis County to a daily journal, published by Moritz Niedner and to be styled the "Saint Louis County Legal Record and Advertiser." Also included is Niedner's statement to the members of the state House of Representatives, defending his project and seeking protection from the General Assembly against those he accuses of bigotry in their opposition to the *Bulletin* as the legal advertiser. The printing bill passes on March 5.

The Metropolitan Police Bill, passed on March 27, creates a four-member Board of Police Commissioners appointed by the governor. It takes control of the police force from the major in St. Louis and is described by the *Missouri Democrat* as "infamous and tyrannical." All the appointees are Southern sympathizers. Essential Information #6, included in Appendix D, explains the bill and its purpose—to control St. Louis. The full text of the bill is located in the Annex. One of the first acts by the new Board was the Sunday law, which prohibits "the performance of any theatricals or similar exercises of amusement at any place in the city on Sunday night."[2] This includes the St. Louis Opera House, which was about to open for a concert. Besides entertainment, the Sunday law prohibits drinking on the Sabbath and "all night assemblages of Negros and mulattoes for religious or other purposes."[3] Furthermore, churches for Blacks, officiated by Black preachers, may not open unless a police officer, appointed by the police commissioner or chief of police is present.

The Missouri State Convention opened in February (covered in the previous volume of this series) in Jefferson City. In March, it moved to St. Louis, and Volume 2 includes an article that discusses the speeches made by several delegates, including a key player, James Broadhead. There is also a day-by-day summary of discussions and resolutions provided in the Annex, and another report that details the day's activities, including several resolutions, one of which says, "we will nominate no man for office in the city government who is not in favor of the preservation of the union of these states and willing and anxious to do all in his power for said preservation."[4] The Convention adjourns March 19, after resolving to remain in the Union by a vote of 89-1, determining that "At present, there is no adequate cause to impel Missouri to dissolve her connection with the Federal Union…"[5] Essential Information #11[6] gives a time-line for the Convention.

This volume also covers various discussions that occur in the state legislature, including those concerning the election of U.S. senators, which were elected by state legislatures until ratification of the 17th Amendment in April 1913. One such senator whom the legislature discusses is Sen. James Green, whose pro-South sympathies result in his losing his re-election. One article dealing with this subject provides in detail the arguments made in the Assembly, both in favor and against Green, and includes the names of possible replacements. Another offers details on the discussion over Waldo P. Johnson as Green's replacement and his subsequent election.

Also introduced in the previous volume is the new governor, Claiborne F. Jackson and his pro-secessionist ideology. This topic is further explored in Volume 2. Jackson gives a speech in front of the Virginia Hotel in

[1] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar#10).
[2] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#17.7).
[3] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#17.8).
[4] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar#97).
[5] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar-Annex-2)
[6] See Appendix D.

Jefferson City, which one reporter describes as "even more extreme and violent than the commissioner,"[7] referring to Commissioner Luther J. Glenn from Georgia., who appeared before the Convention, presented the ordinance of secession adopted by his state, and implored Missouri to go with her sister state. In another article, the *Missouri Democrat* describes Jackson's speech as "dirty and treasonable business."[8]

One of the major themes in the first half of this volume is whether or not Missouri should secede, and whether slaves would be less likely to flee, rebellion less likely to occur, or anti-slavery men less likely to carry on their operations out of the Union than in it.

The inauguration of President Lincoln takes place on March 4, 1861. The full text of his Inaugural Address is included in the Annex.[9] The *Missouri Democrat* compares his views with those of Provisional C.S.A. President Jefferson Davis, describing Lincoln's as "emphatically a peace message," while Davis's is "racy of fire and slaughter, smelling of Southern powder and glistering with Southern steel."[10]

Several background sketches or biographies are provided, including one for the new U.S. postmaster general, Montgomery Blair and another for President Lincoln's private secretary, John G. Nicolay. On the Southern side, there is a biography of Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard of the Provisional C.S. Army. Due to the election for mayor of the city of St. Louis, there is also a background given of the Unconditional Union candidates for the open offices, such as comptroller, city attorney, auditor, recorder, treasurer, and, of course, mayor, the latter being John How, a Republican and former St. Louis City mayor. (Most of the other candidates are not Republican, although they are pro-Union.) How lost the election, held in April, to Daniel Taylor, the favorite of the Southern sympathizers.

Also included in this volume is a full account of the Pacific Railroad's main line, construction, equipment, expenses and total earnings of transportation. Several articles, including editorials, discuss the Pacific Railroad bill, which would authorize government bonds and grants of land to railroad companies for the construction of a transcontinental railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The bill will pass in July 1862.

The second half of the volume, which deals with articles from the month of April, focuses on the St. Louis Arsenal. The previous volume mentioned of a possible attack on the Arsenal, one of the articles specifically naming Gov. Jackson as giving orders to seize it. The *Missouri Democrat*, after confirming that Capt. Lyon is now in command of the troops at the Arsenal, shares its confidence in the captain — "as long as Capt. Lyon is in command, the place will never be surrendered…"[11]

Discussions concerning the "two parties" (the Union party and the Disunion party) continues. The "Union party" is referred to as Unconditional Union, and the "Disunion party" refers not only to those who are ready to secede at once, without waiting for any compromise, but also the Conditional Unionists, sometimes referred to as "Conditional Secession" party, who will stay in the Union if they can get their rights. In a letter to the editors, Dr. Moses L. Linton, a delegate to the Convention, warns that the Convention's vote in favor of union is not the blow to secession that so many believe, as that vote has not crushed secession in the state. He notes that "even good Union men…think that it makes no difference how the local elections go. They reason badly."[12] Despite many letters to the editors and editorials warning against voting for anyone who is not an Unconditional Union man, Daniel G. Taylor, as mentioned previously, is elected mayor. "The advocates of the Taylor ticket let slip no opportunity of accusing the Republican Party of the very crime which the disunionists have committed and are committing, thus committing the grave offense of directing public indignation against the innocent, in order that the guilty may escape,"[13] the "innocent" referring to Taylor's opponent, John How. One editorial says that "money, fraud, and voter intimidation"

[7] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar#13).
[8] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar#16)
[9] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar-Annex-26).
[10] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Mar#34).
[11] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#1).
[12] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#2).
[13] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#3.2).

contributed to Taylor's win, and that the triumph of the disunionists is owed in part to illegal practices, as "hundreds of fraudulent votes were cast for Taylor and hundreds of legal voters were prevented from voting for How."[14]

On April 12, Confederates fire on Fort Sumter, and war begins. The *Democrat* announces the start of the war, but at first it warns readers that the news is coming from Charleston, which is far from the scene of the conflict, and consequently, their sources of information are possibly restricted to rumors. On April 15, President Lincoln issues a proclamation calling for 75,000 state militia troops into federal service for 90 days for the purpose of suppressing insurrection, and Missouri's quota is four infantry regiments. However, Gov. Jackson responds that Missouri will not go to war against the seceded states, and he will not thus comply with Lincoln's call, which he insists is illegal and unconstitutional. Meanwhile, it is reported that the St. Louis Arsenal is reinforced and several hundred young men are enlisted under the president's proclamation.

Lincoln issues another proclamation, this time calling for a blockade of ports within the seceded states in response to the threat from the Confederate States to grant letters of marque.

On April 21, the Missouri Depot at Liberty is seized by some 200 secessionists led by Col. Henry L. Routt. This volume includes a special insert concerning a letter, captured a couple of months later in Boonville by Gen. Lyon, enumerating the arms and ammunition seized at the Liberty Arsenal.[15]

Gov. Jackson continues to push the Military Bill. He convenes the legislature and the General Assembly to a session to be held May 2, for the purpose of enacting laws for the organization and equipment of the state militia. He proposes that the banks allow him to use monies intended to pay the July interest on the state debt for the purpose of arming the militia.

Gen. William S. Harney, commander of the Department of the West, is relieved of his command and called to Washington. (He will return in May but then relieved again, this time permanently.) On his way to the capital, he is arrested by secessionists at Harpers Ferry and taken to Richmond, Virginia. However, Gov. John Letcher directs his immediate release and apologizes for his subordinates' error. (Harney was married into a Southern family.) In a letter to Col. John O'Fallon, he asserts his complete loyalty to the U.S. government and explains his views on secession, and specifically Missouri's ill fate if it were to join the Confederate States.[16] Included in this volume is a special insert, with Harney's military biography, written by the editor of the *1861 Missouri Speaks* collection.

[14] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#6).
[15] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr#25.2)
[16] See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Apr-Annex-24).