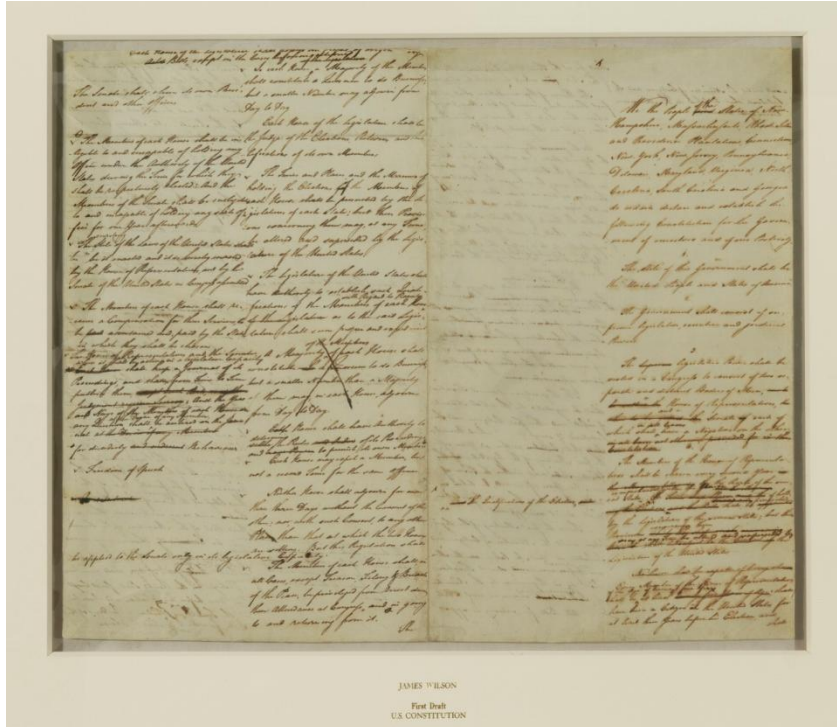


## Federal Convention of 1787

- Also known as the Constitutional Convention, held in Philadelphia from May to September of 1787.
- Delegates hoped to resolve recurring problems in governing the new country under the Articles of Confederation.
- Many of the delegates, including James Wilson from Pennsylvania, kept notes of the proceedings, speeches, and debates.
- You could approach one of the many debates as a topic, or the Federal Convention as a whole; the sources below are just a portion of our holdings on this topic.

### Primary Sources:

*United States Constitution: First Manuscript Draft by James Wilson* [electronic resource] by Wilson, James  
Published 1787  
Call Number: 1663  
Digital Library Link: <http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/idno/1663>



*United States Constitution: first manuscript draft by James Wilson (1663)*

JAMES WILSON  
First Draft  
U.S. CONSTITUTION

*United States Constitution: Second Manuscript Draft by James Wilson* [electronic resource]

by Wilson, James

Published 1787

Call Number: 2766

Digital Library Link: <http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/idno/2766>

*James Wilson papers 1710-1877, undated; bulk 1775-1794*

Collection: 0721

The collection contains material on the early federal government and on Wilson's business and professional activities. There are drafts of the Constitution and a corrected copy of the same from 1787; notes of debates and resolutions in the Constitutional Convention; drafts of treaties, memoranda on regulation of immigration, and establishment of the national bank; and business correspondence. Other materials include letters and miscellaneous documents; deeds and wills; surveys and maps of lands in Pennsylvania; articles of agreement, bonds and accounts; and letters of Mary Wilson Hollingsworth from 1801-1812. Besides the letters of Mrs. Hollingsworth, the collection contains other scattered material that dates from well after Wilson's death in 1798. Among these are letters and legal papers dating from the 1820s to 1850s, many of which are to or from Wilson's son Bird, who lived in New York and was an Episcopal minister.

Finding Aid: <http://www2.hsp.org/collections/manuscripts/w/Wilson0721.html>

### **Secondary Sources:**

*Secret proceedings and debates of the convention assembled at Philadelphia : in the year 1787, for the purpose of forming the Constitution of the United States of America ; from notes taken by the late Robert Yates, esquire, Chief Justice of New York, and copied by John Lansing, jun., esquire, late Chancellor of that state, members of that convention ; including "The genuine information," laid before the legislature of Maryland, by Luther Martin, esquire, then Attorney-General of that state, and member of the same convention ; also, other historical documents, relative to the federal compact of the North American Union*

United States Constitutional Convention, 1787

Published in 1839 by Wilbur Curtiss, in VA

Call Number: LCP Aa.839 R 58, KF 4510.U55 1839

*The journal of the debates in the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, May-September, 1787*

Contributors: James Madison and Gaillard Hunt

Published in 1908 by G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY

Call Number: Tca.131

*Notes of debates in the Federal Convention of 1787*

James Madison, United States Constitutional Convention

First published in v. 2-3 of *The papers of James Madison, Washington, 1840*. First published separately in 1893 under title: *Journal of the Federal Convention kept by James Madison*.

Published in 1966, Ohio University Press

Call Number: Tca132 M265

*Notes on the Federal Convention of 1787*

By William Pierce

Published January 1898, American historical Review, New York

Call Number: Wzz\*.538

*The debates in the Federal convention of 1787 : which framed the Constitution of the United States of America*

By James Madison (ed. Gaillard Hunt?)

Published in 2007, Prometheus Books, Amherst, NY

Originally published: New York : Oxford University Press, 1920.

Call number: KF 4510 .U583 2007

*To form a more perfect Union: the critical ideas of the Constitution*

By Herman Belz, Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert

Published for the United States Capitol Historical Society by the University Press of Virginia, 1992, Charlottesville

Series: Perspectives on the American Revolution

Call number: KF 4541.T67 1992

*Words that made American history; selected readings*

By Richard Nelson Current and John A. Garraty

Published in 1965 by Brown Little, Boston, 2nd edition

Call number: E 178.6 .C8 1965 v.2