



RESEARCH GUIDES

Library of Congress / Research Guides / Main Reading Room / Kansas-Nebraska Act: Primary Documents in American History
/ Digital Collections

Kansas-Nebraska Act: Primary Documents in American History

[Introduction](#)

[**Digital Collections**](#)

[External Websites](#)

[Print Resources](#)

Digital Collections

The digital collections of the Library of Congress contain a wide variety of primary source materials associated with the Kansas-Nebraska Act, including manuscripts, images, newspaper articles, government documents, and broadsides. Provided below is a link to the home page for each relevant digital collection along with selected highlights.

[↑ Back to top](#)

History, Humanities & Social Sciences

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Congressional Publications

- Congress.gov

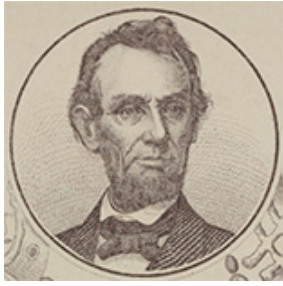
This collection contains congressional publications from 1789 to the present, including debates, bills, laws, and journals from the 33rd Congress (1853-55).

Kansas-Nebraska Act Debate References:

References to debate on the Kansas-Nebraska Act (A Bill to Organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas) can be found in the *Congressional Globe* on the following dates. Additional speeches related to the Kansas-Nebraska Act can be located in the Appendix, 33rd Congress, 1st Session.

- January 23, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- January 24, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- January 31, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- February 6, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- February 7, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- February 15, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- March. 3, 1854
Debated and passed Senate by a vote of 37 to 14.
- May 8, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 9, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 16, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 17, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 18, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 19, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 20, 1854 (Debated in House)
- May 22, 1854
Debated, amended, and passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 113 to 100.
- May 24, 1854 (Debated in the Senate)
- May 26, 1854
The Senate passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act by a vote 35 to 13.
- May 30, 1854
President Franklin Pierce signed into law "An Act to Organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas" (Kansas-Nebraska Act).

Abraham Lincoln Papers



Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress

The complete Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress consists of approximately 20,000 documents

A selection of highlights includes:

- Abraham Lincoln, January 4, 1855 (Draft Resolutions for Illinois General Assembly concerning repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska Act)
- U. S. Congress, 1854 (Printed portion of Kansas-Nebraska Bill)

The Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana



The Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana

This collection documents the life of Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) both through writings by and about Lincoln as well as a large body of publications concerning the issues of the times including slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and related topics.

Search this collection to find eleven items related to the Kansas-Nebraska Act, including newspaper articles and political cartoons.

Historic Newspapers



Chronicling America

Historic American newspapers selected and contributed by state partners in the National Digital Newspaper Program.

A selection of articles on the Kansas-Nebraska Act includes:

- "Mr. Douglas' Nebraska Bill," *Weekly North Carolina Standard* (Raleigh, N.C.), January 18, 1854.
- "The Nebraska Bill Passed," *Nashville Union and American*. (Nashville, Tenn.), May 30 1854.
- "The Press on Nebraska," *Burlington Free Press*. (Burlington, Vt.), June 2, 1854.

Maps

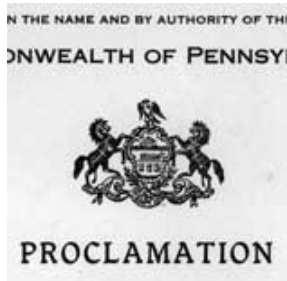
- Maps

The Library of Congress has custody of the largest and most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world with collections numbering over 5.5 million maps, 80,000 atlases, 6,000 reference works, over 500 globes and globe gores, 3,000 raised relief models, and a large number of cartographic materials in other formats, including over 19,000 CDs/DVDs.

A selection of highlights includes:

- Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854
- Nebraska and Kansas
- Kansas & Nebraska.

Printed Ephemera



Printed Ephemera: Three Centuries of BroadSides and Other Printed Ephemera

The collection contains, among other materials, posters, playbills, songsheets, notices, invitations, proclamations, petitions, timetables, leaflets, propaganda, manifestos, ballots, tickets, menus, and business cards. There are more than 28,000 items in

the collection with 10,172 available online. The material dates from the seventeenth century to the present day and covers innumerable topics. Search this collection to locate broadsides and printed ephemera related to Kansas in the 1850s.

A selection of highlights includes:

- Kansas. To those who desire that Kansas should be free ... Worcester, Nov. 22, 1854.
- An act to punish offences against slave property. Passed by the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Kansas, August 14, 1855. Published by authority. Shawnee, M. L. S. John T. Brady, public printer. 1855.

Salmon P. Chase Papers



Salmon Chase Papers

The papers of Ohio governor, Lincoln cabinet official, and Supreme Court justice Salmon P. Chase (1808-1873) span the years 1755-1898, with the bulk of the material originating between 1824 and 1872.

A selection of highlights includes:

- Salmon P. Chase Papers: Speeches and Writings, 1849-1868; Speeches; 1854; Jan. 19 , Appeal of the Independent Democrats in Congress to the People of the United States.
A printed copy of the eight-page pamphlet *Appeal of the Independent Democrats*, written by Chase to denounce the Kansas-Nebraska bill.
- Salmon P. Chase Papers: Speeches and Writings, 1849-1868; Speeches; 1854; Feb. 3 , "Maintain Plighted Faith," speech in United States Senate against repeal of the Missouri Compromise.

Today in History

- April 23, 1813
U.S. congressman, senator, and presidential candidate Stephen A. Douglas was born in Brandon, Vermont, on April 23, 1813. Douglas sponsored the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854.
- January 29, 1861
Kansas entered the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861.

Subjects: American History, Government, Historic American Law, Political Science, Primary Documents in American History

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