

Primary Source: North Carolina Secedes ^[1]

These excerpts from the ordinances and resolutions passed in May and June 1861 encapsulate North Carolina's secession from the Union and ratification of the Confederate States of America's constitution.

[No. 1] An ordinance ^[2]to dissolve the union between the State of North Carolina and the other states united with her under the compact of government entitled the Constitution of the United States.

We, the people of the State of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain ^[3], and it is hereby declared and ordained, That the ordinance adopted by the State of North Carolina in the Convention of 1789, whereby the Constitution of the United States was ratified ^[4] and adopted, and also, all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly, ratifying and adopting amendments to the said Constitution, are hereby repealed ^[5], rescinded ^[6] and abrogated ^[7].

We do further declare and ordain, That the union now subsisting between the State of North Carolina and the other States under the title of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved, and that the State of North Carolina is in the full possession and exercise of all those rights of sovereignty ^[8] which belong and appertain ^[9] to a free and independent State. Ratified the 20th day of May, 1861.

[No. 11] An ordinance to ratify the Constitution of the Confederate States of America.

WHEREAS, On the eleventh day of March, A. D., 1861, at Montgomery, in the State of Alabama, a Constitution was adopted by a Congress of delegates from the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas, united under the name of the Confederate States of America, which Constitution hath been ratified by each of the said States:

Now, therefore, this Convention, having seen and considered the said Constitution, doth, in behalf of the people of the State of North Carolina, adopt and ratify the said Constitution and form of Government, the tenor ^[10] of which appears in a schedule heretoannexed ^[11].

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North Carolina adopted a new state flag in 1861, following secession. The two dates represent the signing of the Mecklenburg Resolves and North Carolina's date of secession. It was replaced by the current state flag in 1885.

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