June 6, 1865

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 6, 1865, the day the “Drake Constitution” was ratified by Missouri voters.

Charles Drake had finished a stint in the Missouri House of Representatives in 1860. He would go on to be chosen by the Missouri Legislature to serve in the United States Senate in 1867, until his resignation in 1870, when he was appointed to be chief justice of the United States Court of Claims. Drake is considered to be the main author of this version of the Missouri constitution and led the convention.

While the Missouri Constitution of 1865 would make emancipation in Missouri official, it also featured what was called the Iron-Clad Test Oath, which was required before a citizen could vote. This was designed to prove loyalty to the Union.

The constitutional convention started in January of 1865, exactly five months — to the day — before ratification.

This version of the state constitution took effect on Independence Day of that year, but only lasted 10 years.

June 6, 1865, the date marking voter ratification of the Missouri Constitution of 1865, also known as the “Drake Constitution,” on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: <http://www.civilwaronthewesternborder.org/timeline/missouri-drake-constitution-ratified>; )