

III  
Second Session of Secession Convention  
May 6 to June 3, 1861.

Three weeks passed after the convention adjourned, then an emergency did arise. On April 12, the bombardment of Fort Sumter began. On April 15 Lincoln called for troops to suppress the rebellion. Arkansas was asked to furnish her quota. At once the governor refused. The die was cast.

On April 20, the president of the Convention issued a call for it to reassemble in Little Rock on Monday, May 6. On that day it reassembled and 68 delegates answered the roll call. That afternoon with 70 members answering roll call an ordinance of secession was passed. The vote was 65 for and 5 against. Those voting against were Bohlinger and Murphy of Madison County, Kelly from Pike, Campbell from Searcy, and Gunter from Washington. All except Murphy, at the request of the president, changed their votes and the ordinance was passed 69 to 1 at 10 minutes past 4 o'clock.

The Convention remained in session until June 3, a period of twenty-eight days. In this time, in addition to passing the ordinance of secession, it adopted a constitution, joined the Southern Confederacy, elected delegates to the Confederate Congress, created a military board, and provided for raising troops and placing the state on a war basis. The details of all these and many other matters are set forth in full in the 361 pages of the Journal of the Called Session of the Convention of Arkansas. A copy of this may be found in the library of the Arkansas History Commission in the Old State House. It is a leather-bound volume, well preserved.

On June 1, the Convention adopted a resolution providing for adjournment "At the hour of six o'clock p. m. on Monday, the third day of June, 1861, subject to be convened by proclamation of the president, or the military board, or governor, and unless convened on or before the first day of January, 1862, it shall stand adjourned without day." On Monday, June 3, adjournment took place as ordered. The convention never reassembled.

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The first meeting of the Pulaski County Historical Society for the fall season was held at the Little Rock Public Library Sunday afternoon, October 16. The speaker was Mr. David Bizzell, Deputy County Clerk and County Historian for Pulaski County. He is in charge of the microfilming program for the County. His subject was, "Our County Records and How We Are Preserving Them." There were forty-five in attendance.

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Now is the time to call the attention of your friends to our Society. If our own local members, some one hundred twenty-five, as well as the New York Public Library, the libraries of the Universities of Kentucky, Wisconsin, Texas, Arkansas, and Duke University, think membership worth three dollars (\$3.00) a year, many others might also agree if they were fully informed about our publications and our meetings. Let's try to increase our membership. You can help. Give a membership for a Christmas present.

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