

Reference Code MS 163

Repository: Georgia Room, Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, 823 Telfair Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901

Title: *The Daily Constitutionalist*, February 1863 – July 1863

Date: February 1863-July 1863

Extent: one (1) box

Scope and content: 116 editions of The Daily Constitutionalist newspaper.

Name of Creator: Unknown

Administrative/Biographical: The Daily Constitutionalist is digitized and available in the Georgia Historic Newspapers database.

From the Digital Library of Georgia:

“The *Augusta Constitutionalist*, founded by Phillip C. Gieu, began as a tri-weekly paper in 1822 titled the *Georgia Constitutionalist*. Despite evidence to the contrary, in 1873, the paper claimed to be the "oldest democratic paper in the south" with its founding date set at 1799; the *Augusta Chronicle*, founded in 1785 and long rival of the *Constitutionalist*, disputed this statement. James Gardner, the *Constitutionalist's* longest running owner and editor, purchased the paper in June of 1845. Gardner identified himself as a southern rights Democrat but notably used his paper to support union-Democrat Howell Cobb in 1853 for U.S Senate. Gardner published many editorials voicing opinion against Joseph E. Brown's run for a third gubernatorial term in 1861 as well as warning against southern resistance in the case of a Republican presidential victory. Despite these misgivings about secession, the *Constitutionalist* would throw its support behind the Confederacy. Having moved to a more owner-oriented role, Gardner briefly hired Henry W. Cleveland as editor in 1864. Cleveland, however, was fired for his private communication with and open support for reunification advocates Joseph E. Brown and Alexander Stephens. Cleveland's replacement, James Ryder Randall, revamped the *Constitutionalist's* opposition to reunion and this position resulted in the paper's suspension by the Union military from May 7th to May 17th, 1865. Gardner maintained a degree of ownership until retirement in May of 1873 and presses shut down briefly under increasing financial struggle. James Randall, with the help of investors, revived the *Constitutionalist*. The paper survived independently until March, 1877 when Patrick Walsh of the *Chronicle and Sentinel* purchased the publication to create the *Chronicle and Constitutionalist*.”

Conditions governing access: Restrictions, material is fragile.

Related Resources:

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn87090234/>