Debating the Ninth Amendment
Kurt T. Lash
in The Lost History of the Ninth Amendment
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: September 2009
Item type: chapter
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195372618.003.03
This chapter considers the events surrounding the ratification of the Ninth Amendment. Topics covered include James Madison's 1791 Speech on the Bank of the United States, redrafting of Madison's original bill of rights, Roger Sherman's draft bill of rights, and Madison's speech opposing the First Bank of the United States.

The Old Puritan and a New Nation
Mark David Hall
in Roger Sherman and the Creation of the American Republic
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: January 2013
Item type: chapter
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199929849.003.0001
This chapter provides an overview of the literature on the founding era, in general, and Sherman, specifically. It shows that his colleagues thought very highly of him, and concludes with a brief overview of his life.

Roger Sherman and the Creation of the American Republic
Mark David Hall
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: January 2013
Item type: book
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199929849.001.0001
Roger Sherman was the only founder to sign the Declaration and Resolves (1774), Articles of Association (1774), Declaration of
Independence (1776), Articles of Confederation (1777, 1778), and Constitution (1787). He served on the five-man committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence, and he was among the most influential delegates at the Constitutional Convention. As a Representative and Senator in the new republic, he played important roles in determining the proper scope of the national government's power and in drafting the Bill of Rights. Even as he was helping to build a new nation, Sherman was a member of the Connecticut General Assembly and a Superior Court judge. In 1783, he and a colleague revised all of the state's laws. This book explores Sherman's political theory and shows how it informed his many contributions to America's founding. A central thesis of the work is that Sherman, like many founders, was heavily influenced by Calvinist political thought. This tradition had a significant impact on the founding generation's opposition to Great Britain, and it led them to develop political institutions designed to prevent corruption, promote virtue, and protect rights. Contrary to oft-repeated assertions by jurists and scholars that the founders advocated a strictly secular polity, this book argues persuasively that most founders believed Christianity should play an important role in the new American republic.

The Founding Fathers’ Own Views on Religion
Matthew L. Harris and Thomas S. Kidd

in The Founding Fathers and the Debate over Religion in Revolutionary America: A History in Documents
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: January 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter presents documents on the religious views of the following: Thomas Jefferson, 1787, 1803; John Adams, 1810, 1813; Benjamin Franklin, 1771, 1790; Thomas Paine, 1776; Patrick Henry, 1796; Samuel Adams, 1780, 1802; Roger Sherman, 1789; William Livingston, 1786; and Elias Boudinot, 1815.

Narrow Nationalism
David Brian Robertson

in The Original Compromise: What the Constitution’s Framers Were Really Thinking
Published in print: 2013 Published Online: May 2013
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The Virginia Plan threatened smaller states like Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware that were excluded from James Madison's coalition. Soon after Randolph proposed the Virginia Plan, leading delegates from these vulnerable states, such as Connecticut's Roger Sherman, began to articulate an alternative “narrow” nationalism and to mount a defense of the states' authority. These narrow nationalists delayed Madison's agenda, put its supporters on the defensive, and built a political coalition to protect the states' influence. By the third week of the Convention, they had developed an alternative agenda—the New Jersey Plan—that aimed to protect most of the state governments' existing prerogatives. The authors of the New Jersey Plan failed to substitute their agenda for Virginia's. But their fierce defense of state influence and powers shaped the Convention's negotiations and compromises thereafter.

The Setting
David Brian Robertson

in The Original Compromise: What the Constitution’s Framers Were Really Thinking

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: May 2013
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Item type: chapter

State governments sent prominent leaders to represent them at the Constitutional Convention. These delegates agreed that the nation faced an urgent crisis. The government under the Articles of Confederation was failing and could not cope effectively with daunting problems of national defense, internal insurrection, economic hardship, and commercial disarray. Each region and state had different hopes and needs for a reconstituted national government. New England, the middle states, and the South were deeply divided. The delegates thus viewed the crisis in different ways because they brought diverse aspirations, experiences, and interests to the Convention. Some, like James Madison, aimed to build a much stronger, more centralized American state; others, like Roger Sherman, presumed that the existing Confederation could be repaired with some additional institutions and policy authority.