House and Senate Journals, Series 1, 1789-1817

A chronicle of the early U.S. Congress’ proceedings

Quick Facts
A fully searchable digital edition of the record of floor action from the early U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Chronicles matters considered on the floor, votes and other actions, executive department communications and more. Digitized from the original printings of the journals.

“Gives a real flavor for how the daily life of Congress was spent…. These early Journal volumes bring alive discussions of important events in U.S. history.”
— Barbara Miller, Associate Professor and Documents Librarian

Overview
From their inaugural sessions, both the United States House and Senate have kept journals of their proceedings to record the minutes of floor action, as required by the Constitution. House and Senate Journals, Series I, 1789-1817 chronicles matters considered on the floor, votes and other actions taken, as well as excerpts from executive department communications and member responses. To create this digital edition, Readex used the original printings of the House and Senate journals, rather than the Gales and Seaton reprints from the 1820s.

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