

Grandfather Clause, a legal provision exempting someone from a new qualification or regulation. More specifically, grandfather clauses exempted men who had the right to vote on Jan. 1, 1867 or, in some states, those who had fought in American wars, and their descendants, from literacy or property tests for voting through seven southern state constitutional amendments passed from 1895 to 1910. Proponents contended that poor, illiterate whites would still be able to vote, while African-Americans, who could not vote in the South in 1866, would again be disfranchised. Grandfather clauses were temporary and were declared unconstitutional under the Fifteenth Amendment by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Guinn v. U.S.* (1915).

#### Bibliography:

Kousser, J. Morgan. *The Shaping of Southern Politics: Suffrage Restriction and the Establishment of the One-Party South, 1880-1910*. New Haven, Conn., 1974.