

# *The Constitution of the Great Republic of Rough and Ready*

## *Preamble*

*We, the people of The Great Republic of Rough and Ready, united in a common cause, with the will of God and the flood-gates of Heaven, in order that in God's will shall come the sanction of perpetuity, and thankful to the Almighty for our many blessings, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Great Republic of Rough and Ready.*

## *Article 1*

*All men are by nature created free and independent, and have certain rights, among which are the enjoyment and defending of life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights shall be deemed inalienable, and the rights of the governed shall be above the rights of the government.*

## *Article 2*

*All political power is inherent in the people. The government is instituted solely for the protection, security and benefit of the governed. The people shall have the right to alter or change in any manner whatsoever, and at any time, the government being created herein.*

## *Article 3*

*The Great Republic of Rough and Ready comprises that portion of Nevada County within the Sovereign Territory of California, laying west of Nevada and Grass Valley Townships, having the South Yuba River as its northerly boundary, Bear River on the southerly side, and the marked line of Yuba County in the West. Upon extreme lines, its extent is about sixteen miles, road measurement, and contains upwards of two hundred square miles of land.*

## *Article 4*

*There shall be freedom of religious worship and profession.*

## *Article 5*

*The right of trial by jury shall be inviolate and secured to all.*

## *Article 6*

*Any citizen of this Republic shall have the right to speak or write freely, and publish his sentiments for all to behold.*

## *Article 7*

*There shall be elected by the people, a President, who shall be vested with executive power. The President, upon election, shall appoint a Cabinet and other officials, who shall be deemed necessary.*

## *Article 8*

*The Legislative body shall consist of a Council of seven honorable men duly elected by the people.*

## *Article 9*

*The Judicial body shall consist of the Committee of Vigilance. The three members of which body shall be appointed by the President.*

## *Article 10*

*All property in the Republic, including mining claims, shall be taxed in proportion to the worth of aforesaid properties.*

## *Article 11*

*The law enforcement body shall come within the scope of the powers of the Committee of Vigilance, which body shall appoint such officials as are deemed necessary for the protection of life, the safe-guarding of property, and shall have the power to take whatsoever steps are necessary to safeguard The Great Republic of Rough and Ready, and from attack or invasion.*

## *Article 12*

*This Constitution shall take effect and be in force at twelve o'clock meridian, the seventh day of April in the Year of Our Lord 1850.*

*Colonel E. Brundage, President*

*Attest: Hans L. Roberts, Justice of the Peace  
Secretary of State*