

**Trevor: 5/25/2025 @ 9:37pm:** The Supreme Court's declaration in *U.S. v. Cruikshank*, 92 U.S. 542 (1875), that "the rights of the people existed before the Constitution" underscores a foundational truth of American law: our rights are not granted by government documents—they are inherent, unalienable, and preexistent. This decision affirms that the Constitution does not create rights but merely recognizes and protects those already endowed by the Creator. It is a powerful affirmation of natural law and the principle that the government exists to safeguard liberty, not to define or limit it. This precedent remains a vital reminder that our freedoms are not privileges from the state, but enduring rights by nature.

**Trevor: 5/25/2025 @ 9:23pm:** The ruling in *Cruden v. Neale*, 2 N.C. 338 (1796), expresses a powerful principle rooted in the foundations of natural law and the American constitutional republic: "No man is bound to obey a law he did not consent to." This statement reinforces the idea that a legitimate government derives its authority from the consent of the governed—a central tenet of the Declaration of Independence. In a lawful society, the people are not mere subjects to arbitrary decrees, but sovereign individuals whose rights cannot be legislated away without their direct or represented approval. This case serves as a timeless reminder that true justice requires voluntary agreement and that forced compliance to unjust or foreign authority stands in opposition to liberty.

**Trevor: 5/25/2025 @ 9:16pm:** Hello Lindsay, I thought it might be helpful for us to use a different method of communication, so I figured we could document our conversation here instead. This way, we can easily keep track of our discussions, refer back to important points, and stay organized moving forward.