

Secession and Civil War

Chapter Preview

People

Kate Stone, Amanda Stone, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Overton Moore, Benjamin Palmer, Pierre Gustave Toutant (P. G. T.) Beauregard, Chatham Roberdeau Wheat, David Farragut, Mansfield Lovell, Jefferson Davis, Benjamin Butler, Nathaniel Banks, Richard Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Henry Watkins Allen, John Wilkes Booth

Places

Fort Jackson; Fort St. Philip; Vicksburg, Mississippi; Port Hudson; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Mansfield; Appomattox Court House, Virginia

Terms

secession, emancipation, states' rights, Missouri Compromise, Wilmot Proviso, Compromise of 1850, popular sovereignty, Fugitive Slave Act, sectionalism, Confederate States of America (CSA), Conscription Act, blockade, Confiscation Act, profiteering, Anaconda Plan, siege, chicory, Emancipation Proclamation, assassination



Kate Stone was twenty years old and a member of a wealthy planter family when the Civil War began. After Kate's father died, her mother Amanda oversaw the family's business affairs. In 1860, the Stones moved to a cotton plantation near the Mississippi River in East Carroll Parish. With more than 1,000 acres and 150 slaves, the family's future seemed secure. However, in 1861, after Louisiana's secession from the United States in January and the beginning of the Civil War in April, the lives of everyone on the Stone plantation changed. **Secession** is the withdrawal of a state from the Union. Kate kept a diary and wrote about many of the changes in their lives.

Eventually, all five of Kate's brothers served in the war on the Confederate side. In 1861, Kate wrote that the oldest was "wild to be off to Virginia" because he feared the fighting would "be over before he can get there." However, as the war dragged on, worry about her brothers became a constant theme in her diary. Sadly, by the end of 1863, two of her brothers had died while serving in the Confederate army, one from

Top Right: Kate Stone. **Background:** The Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. **Opposite Page, Top Right:** Woodland Plantation was built as a sugar plantation in Plaquemines Parish in the 1830s.

pneumonia, the other from an accident.

In her diary, Kate expressed her firm Confederate patriotism, insisting, “Our cause is just and must prevail.” But even for a patriot, the war’s hardships became difficult to take. Union forces arrived on the family’s plantation in 1862. With them came a justified fear that their slaves would abandon the plantation for the freedom they believed the Union army would provide.

In an attempt to limit her losses, Amanda Stone sent 120 of her slaves to Texas in 1863. She and Kate were forced to follow the slaves to Texas later that same year. In the family’s absence, the few remaining slaves took over the plantation and moved into the family’s home, dividing the rooms and the Stones’ remaining personal property among themselves.

The Stone women would remain *refugees* (people who are forced to leave their home or country) until the end of the war in 1865. They were able to reclaim their plantation but, due to **emancipation** (the freeing of slaves), lost all their property in slaves. The family had to face the new reality of planting and harvesting their fields with freed people who, Kate regretted, now demanded “high wages.”

Kate felt ambivalent about the end of slavery, but after the war, she did her best to adjust to a world that she felt had been turned upside down. She married, raised children, and devoted herself to memorializing the service of Confederate soldiers like her brothers. She founded the Madison Parish chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and remained active until her death in 1907.

In this chapter, we will examine the political and cultural issues that led to sectional tensions and, ultimately, led Louisiana to secede from the Union. We will also learn about the wartime experiences of soldiers, politicians, civilians, and slaves in Union-occupied areas of Louisiana and in the parts of the state that remained in Confederate hands throughout the war. Finally, we will examine the immediate consequences of the war’s end.



Top Left: Gatling gun. **Middle:** Ebenezer Butterick's paper dress pattern. **Bottom:** A Civil War photograph by Mathew Brady.

Signs of the Times



U.S. Expansion

Three new states joined the Union during the Civil War: Kansas in 1861, West Virginia in 1863, and Nevada in 1864.

Technology

In 1861, Elisha Otis patented an elevator powered by a steam engine. In that year, telegraph wires connected New York with San Francisco. During the Civil War, new tools of war—including ironclad warships, primitive submarines, and the Gatling gun—were invented.

Art

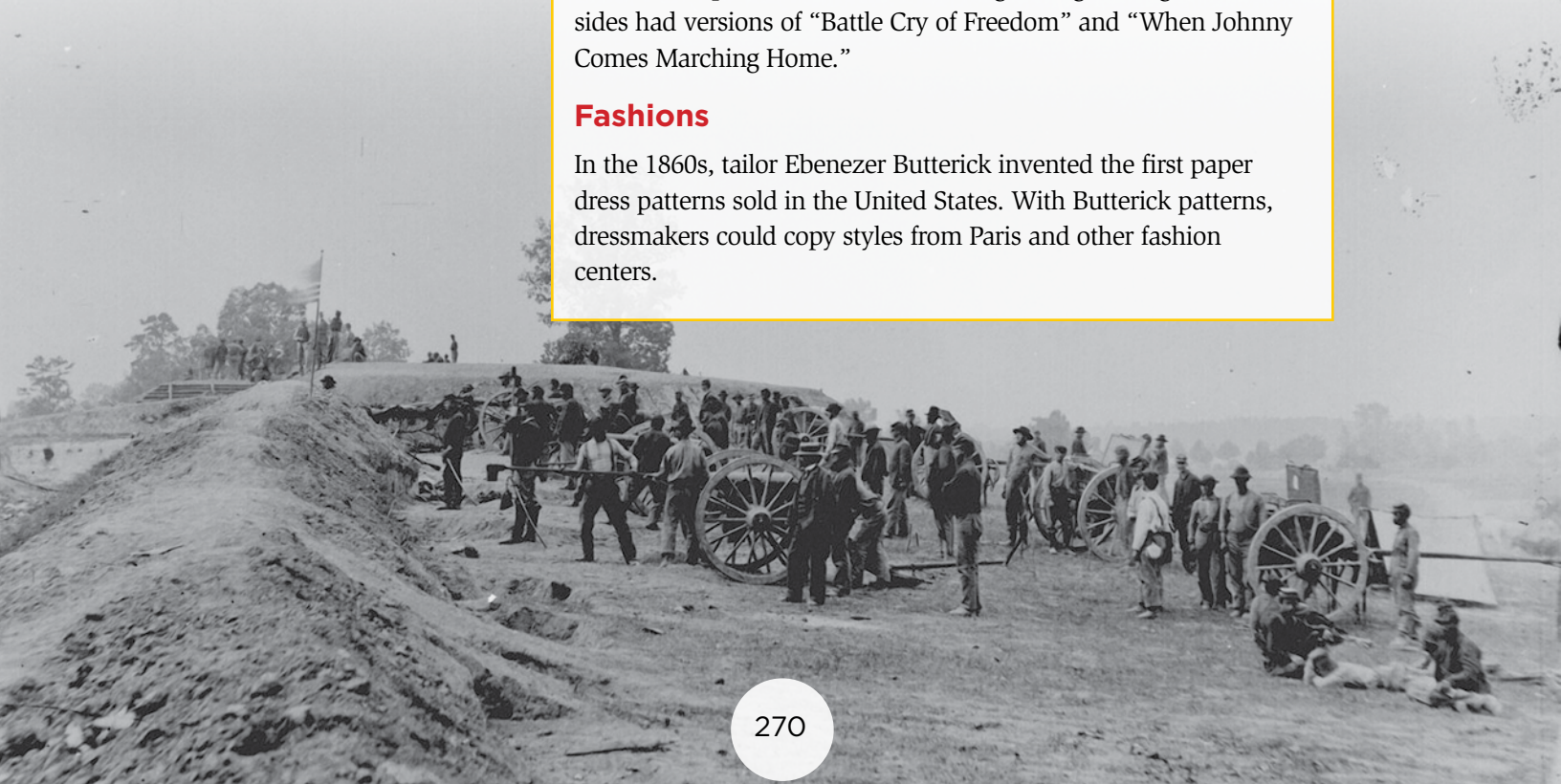
American artist Winslow Homer made drawings of Civil War scenes for *Harper's Weekly*, dealing more with camp life than battle scenes. Photographer Mathew Brady and his crew of twenty produced a lasting photographic record of Civil War battlefields.

Music

Confederate troops sang “Bonnie Blue Flag” (inspired by the flag of the short-lived Republic of West Florida), “Dixieland (Dixie),” “Goover Peas,” and “The Yellow Rose of Texas.” Union troops sang “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” “John Brown’s Body,” “Tenting on the Old Camp Ground,” and “Marching through Georgia.” Both sides had versions of “Battle Cry of Freedom” and “When Johnny Comes Marching Home.”

Fashions

In the 1860s, tailor Ebenezer Butterick invented the first paper dress patterns sold in the United States. With Butterick patterns, dressmakers could copy styles from Paris and other fashion centers.





1860 - Benjamin Palmer gave a sermon asking for secession (Nov.)

1861 - Louisiana seceded from the United States (Jan.)

Louisiana joined the CSA (Apr.)



1862 - David Farragut bombarded Forts Jackson and St. Philip, then occupied New Orleans (Apr.)

Benjamin Butler took command of New Orleans (May)

Baton Rouge fell to Farragut's fleet (May)

Wheat's Tigers disbanded after his death (June)

Nathaniel Banks replaced Butler in New Orleans (Dec.)

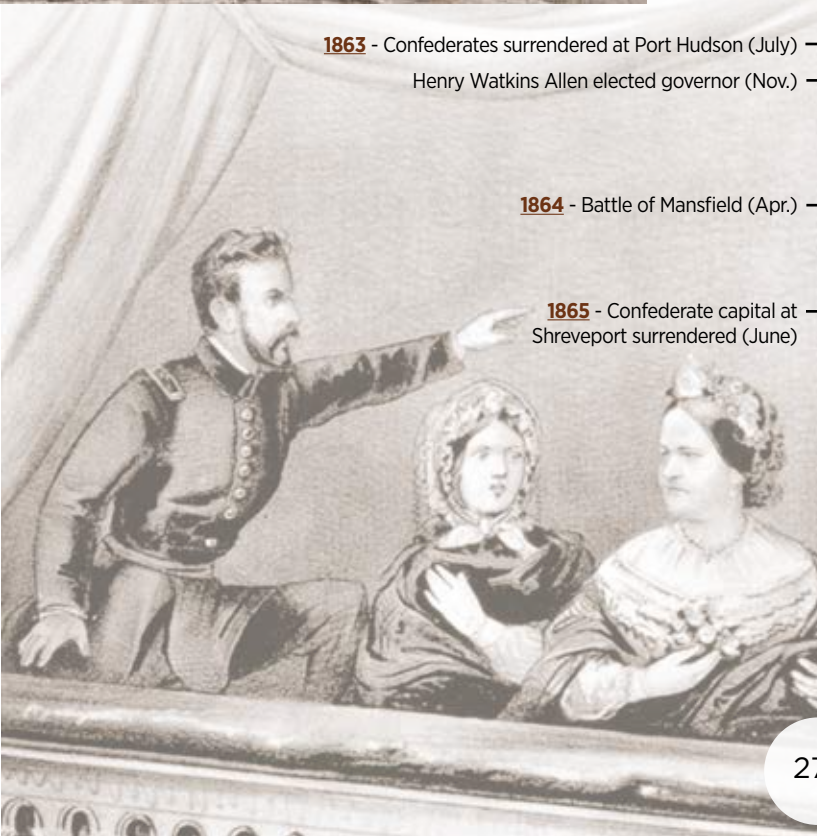


1863 - Confederates surrendered at Port Hudson (July)

Henry Watkins Allen elected governor (Nov.)

1864 - Battle of Mansfield (Apr.)

1865 - Confederate capital at Shreveport surrendered (June)



1860

1861

1862

1863

1864

1865

Timeline

1860-1865

Abraham Lincoln elected president (Nov.) - **1860**

South Carolina became first state to secede from the Union (Dec.)

Confederate States of America formed (Apr.) - **1861**

Civil War began with firing on Fort Sumter (Apr.)

Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee (Apr.) - **1862**



Emancipation Proclamation (Jan.) - **1863**

Confederates defeated at Gettysburg, PA (July)

Confederates surrendered at Vicksburg, MS (July)

Abraham Lincoln reelected president (Nov.) - **1864**

Confederate General Lee surrendered to Union General Grant (Apr.) - **1865**

President Lincoln assassinated (Apr.)

Top Left: Benjamin Palmer.
Middle Left: Fort Jackson. **Bottom Left:** Surrender at Port Hudson.
Right: Signing of Emancipation Proclamation. **Bottom:** Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Section 1

Bottom: The economic system of the South was dependent on the work of slaves.

Sectionalism and Secession

As you read, look for

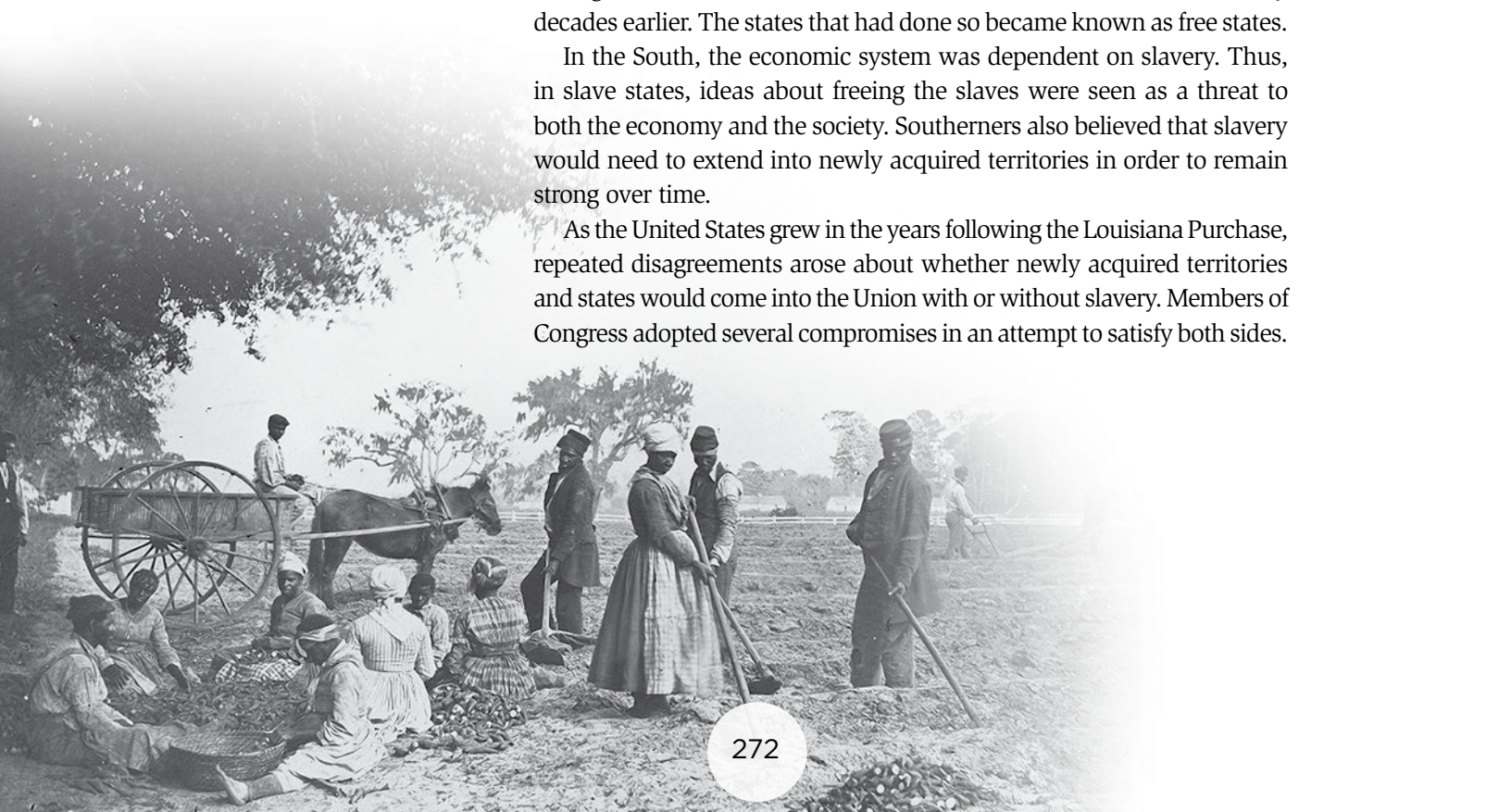
- ▶ compromises that attempted to keep slavery issues from dividing the country;
- ▶ a book that caused strong but opposite reactions in the North and the South;
- ▶ how the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 led to the secession of southern states;
- ▶ conflicting feelings of Louisianians regarding secession, and their eventual acceptance of the idea;
- ▶ **terms: states' rights, Missouri Compromise, Wilmot Proviso, Compromise of 1850, popular sovereignty, Fugitive Slave Act, sectionalism, Confederate States of America (CSA).**

a-z
GLOSSARY

Between 1820 and 1850, political disputes arose over the related issues of slavery, its expansion, and states' rights. The principle of **states' rights** emphasizes the rights of individual states over the rights of the federal government. Antislavery and abolitionist sentiment grew in the North during those decades. Most of that section's states had outlawed slavery decades earlier. The states that had done so became known as free states.

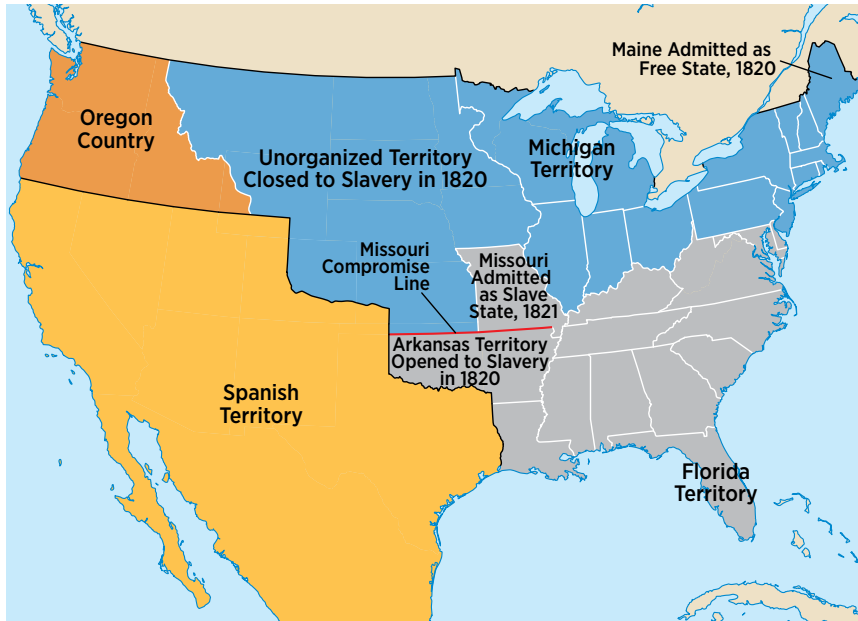
In the South, the economic system was dependent on slavery. Thus, in slave states, ideas about freeing the slaves were seen as a threat to both the economy and the society. Southerners also believed that slavery would need to extend into newly acquired territories in order to remain strong over time.

As the United States grew in the years following the Louisiana Purchase, repeated disagreements arose about whether newly acquired territories and states would come into the Union with or without slavery. Members of Congress adopted several compromises in an attempt to satisfy both sides.



Attempts at Compromise

The **Missouri Compromise** of 1820 set a boundary between slave and free states, along the southern border of the new state of Missouri. That line was located at latitude 36 degrees 30 minutes north (36°30' N). That boundary also extended westward into new territories and was intended to provide a permanent line of separation between slave and free areas. Maine was admitted at the same time in order to maintain an even number of slave and free states within the nation.



Yet each time the nation added new territory, the same questions continued to *fester* (worsen, grow more troublesome). After 1846, the territories acquired in the aftermath of the Mexican-American War became the focus of disagreement. A Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania named David Wilmot wrote legislation that would prohibit slavery in any new territory acquired as a result of that war. The House of Representatives passed the **Wilmot Proviso** repeatedly. However, the Senate, which had a proslavery majority, blocked it. Regardless of the outcome, each time Wilmot's bill was introduced, it enhanced tensions over the issue of slavery.



Lagniappe

Prior to being admitted to the Union as a free state in 1820, Maine had been administered as a district of Massachusetts since 1647.

MAP 10.1

The Missouri Compromise

Map Skill: Why would the Arkansas Territory be allowed to have slavery after 1820?



Lagniappe

After serving in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat from 1845 to 1851, David Wilmot took a leading part in founding the Republican Party in 1854 and was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Republican in 1861.

Above: David Wilmot. **Left:** A slave sale in New Orleans.

Below: This 1893 painting, *The Underground Railroad*, by Charles T. Webber, shows people of the Underground Railroad (an informal connection of people and homes that helped fugitive slaves) leading runaway slaves to safety.

Finally, both houses of Congress reached a five-part compromise. The first three parts of the **Compromise of 1850** dealt specifically with new territories in the Southwest. First, California would enter the Union as a free state. Second, the people of the Utah and New Mexico Territories would decide the slavery issue for themselves. This process was called **popular sovereignty** (the ability of the people of an area to decide an issue, such as whether to allow slavery, for themselves). Third, Texas accepted revised borders with New Mexico in exchange for a payment from the federal government. Fourth, slavery continued to exist in the nation's capital, Washington, DC, but the slave trade was abolished there. A law regarding *fugitive* (runaway) slaves was the fifth part of the compromise.

The most hotly contested parts of the legislation had been those that focused on newly acquired territories in the Southwest. But it was this fifth part that proved the most *incendiary* (tending to inflame or stir up people). The **Fugitive Slave Act** was designed to ensure southern slaveholders that they could reclaim slaves who escaped to free states. Under the new law, masters or their representatives had only to appear before specially appointed commissioners and swear that the slave in question belonged to them. The commissioners received ten dollars for a case that resulted in a slave being returned, but only five dollars when a claim was rejected. So the commissioners had an economic incentive to return slaves to masters who claimed them.

Northerners who held antislavery views were *incensed* (furious), particularly because the law required all citizens to assist officials who were looking for runaways. Instead of settling the matter, the Fugitive Slave Act led to a rise in antislavery feelings in the North. This created further disagreement between the two sections of the nation.





Uncle Tom's Cabin

A novel published in 1852 created great sympathy for the suffering of slaves and advanced the antislavery cause in the North. The author, Harriet Beecher Stowe, was born in Connecticut. Though she had lived in Ohio on the border of a slave state, she never witnessed plantation slavery for herself. Yet Stowe's fictional *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had a very real impact on the national debate over slavery. Stowe vividly portrayed what she saw as the evils of slavery through the experiences of memorable characters. The character of Uncle Tom, for whom the novel is named, was "sold down the river" from Kentucky to Louisiana. A cruel master named Simon Legree purchased Tom and abused him relentlessly, resulting in his death.

In the South, and particularly in Louisiana where much of her novel was set, Stowe's portrayal of slavery received harsh criticism. No matter how one felt, the novel had an impact on public opinion, increasing the ever-growing separation between the free and slave states.

Political Parties and Sectionalism

Political parties retained their importance throughout the 1850s, but the ongoing arguments over slavery's existence and extension began to override loyalty to a political party. During the decades leading to the Civil War, southerners and northerners began to think of themselves and their section of the country as fundamentally different from the other. This way of dividing the country based on slave or free was called **sectionalism**.



Eliza comes to tell Uncle Tom that he is sold and that she is running away to save her child. Page 62.

Lagniappe

Senator Charles Sumner, an antislavery senator from Massachusetts, remarked, "Had there been no *Uncle Tom's Cabin* there would have been no Lincoln in the White House."

Top: British artist Edwin Long painted *Uncle Tom and Little Eva* in 1866. **Above:** An engraving from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The Election of 1860

By the time of the presidential election of 1860, the previous party system, dominated by the Democrats and Whigs, had come apart. Northern and Southern Democrats split over the issue of slavery, and offered two separate candidates for president that year. Meanwhile, some southerners who wished to stay in the Union formed the Constitutional Union Party and put forth a third candidate.

Abraham Lincoln of Illinois was the fourth candidate in the presidential race of 1860. He represented the six-year-old Republican Party. Republicans believed that slavery was a negative social force and that it dishonored the dignity of free laborers. The party's motto, "Free soil, free labor, free men," made clear that the party was opposed to the extension of slavery into new territories. However, Republicans promised to leave slavery as it was in the current slave states. This was not enough for many southerners, who felt slavery had to expand into the new territories as the nation grew. Most southerners were so anti-Republican that Abraham Lincoln did not even appear on the ballot in ten of the fifteen slave states, including Louisiana.

MAP 10.2

The Election of 1860

Map Skill: How many electoral votes did John C. Breckinridge win?

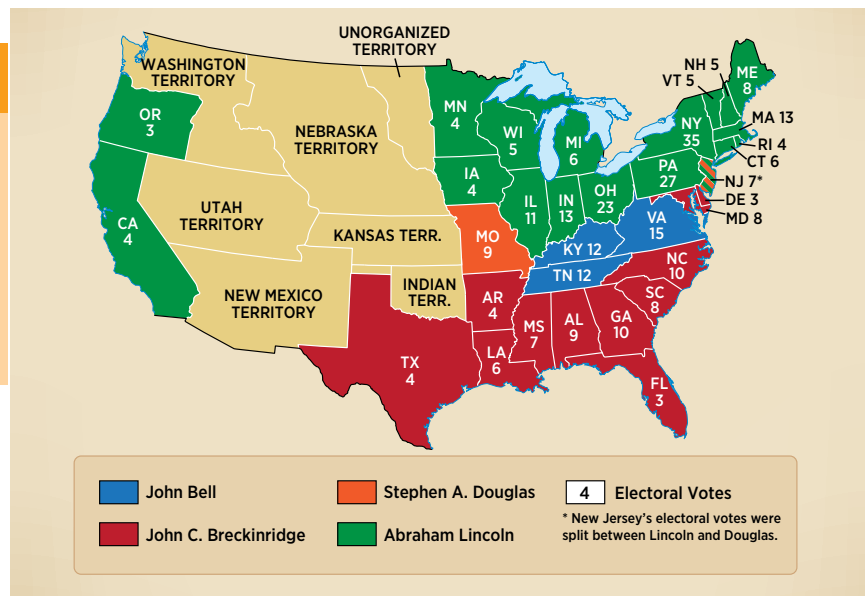
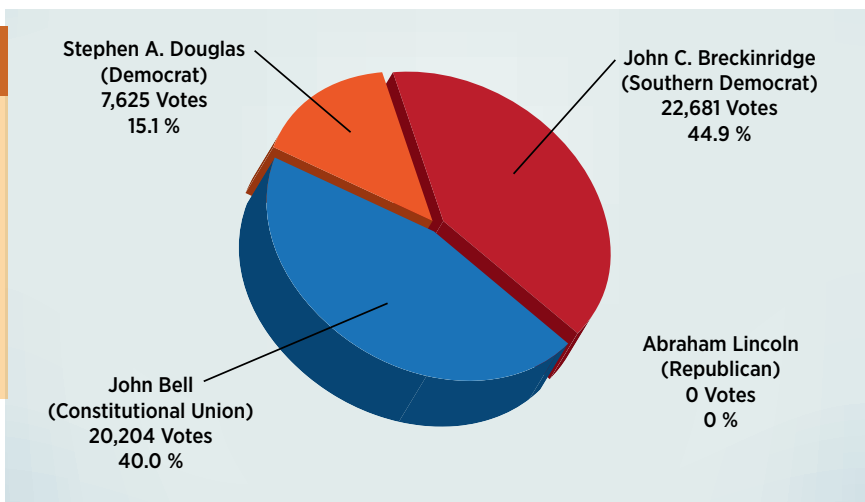


Figure 10.1

The 1860 Election in Louisiana

How was it possible that Abraham Lincoln received no votes in Louisiana?



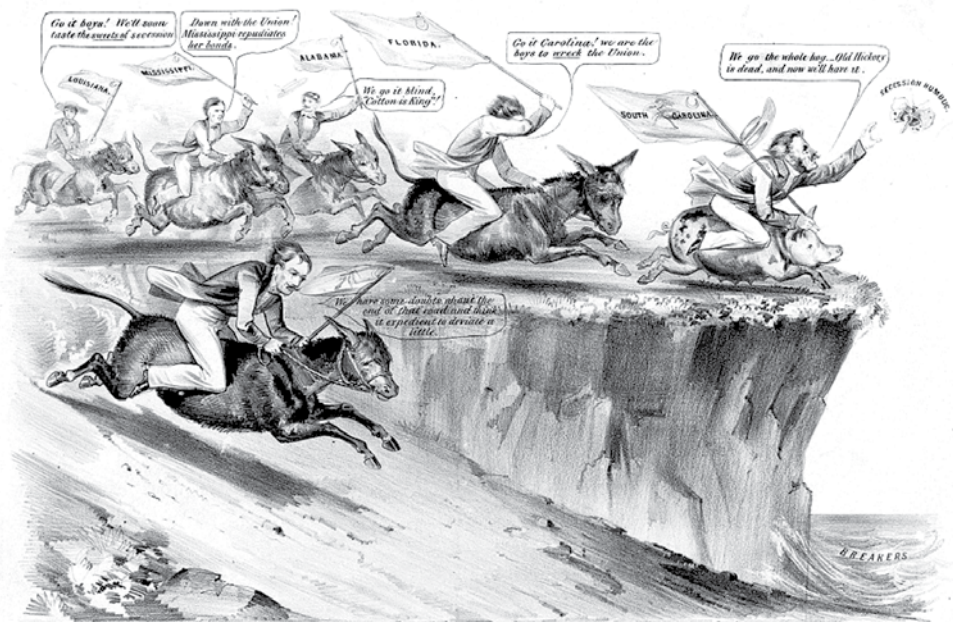
Thus, when Lincoln was elected president in November 1860, many southerners felt his election was unfair. Some believed the election of a Republican president was the final straw. They felt that it gave them the right to secede from the United States and form a new union of slaveholding states. In December, South Carolina was the first state to take this action.

Louisiana Secedes

Although he had originally opposed withdrawing from the Union, Louisiana Governor Thomas Overton Moore began to move the state toward secession soon after Lincoln's election, by taking over federal facilities along the Mississippi River. Despite Moore's actions, it was unclear whether a majority of voters wanted to secede. Because the state's economy depended on trade that linked markets in New Orleans with northern and international markets, many businesspeople were undecided about secession. Sugar planters were also concerned about how the loss of the protective federal tariff would affect prices and markets for their crop.

Despite these economic concerns, many others believed that the state ought to secede. On Thanksgiving Day 1860, Presbyterian minister Benjamin Palmer gave a sermon in New Orleans called "The South: Her Peril and Her Duty." Palmer made the argument that southerners had a God-ordained duty to protect their slaves and to defend slavery. His sermon, which was printed and distributed throughout the region, became widely influential among those who were considering secession.

Beyond religious convictions, others believed that the South's strong and honorable men could defeat the North quickly in a war and make a new nation where slavery would be secure. This belief in honorable southern manhood failed to take into account that the industrializing North had a larger population of potential soldiers. It also had a stronger manufacturing base that could make weapons and other necessary supplies quickly.



THE "SECESSION MOVEMENT".

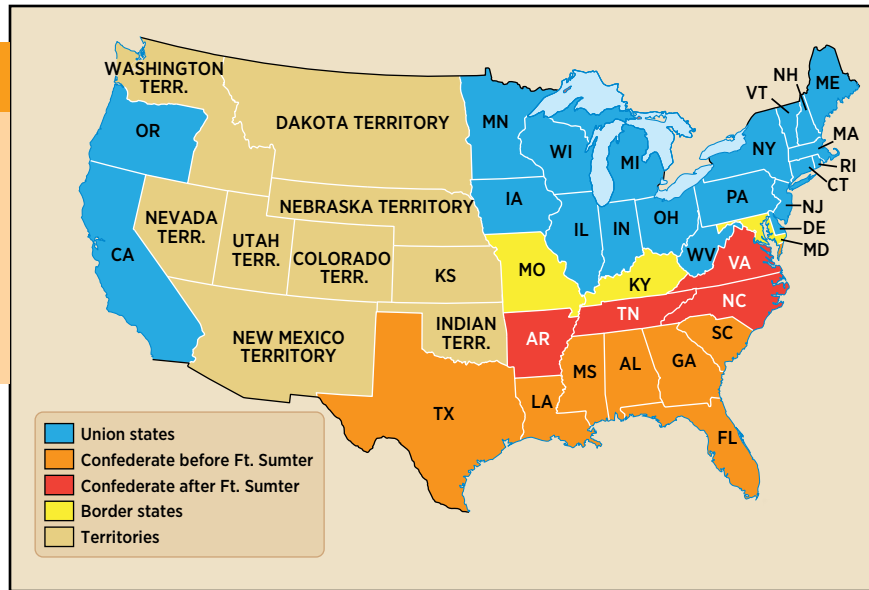
Top Right: Abraham Lincoln. **Bottom:** This cartoon, called The "Secession Movement," shows southern states, led by South Carolina, rushing headlong "off the cliff" to secession.

In December 1860, the Louisiana legislature called an election for delegates to consider the question. The balance of elected delegates who were for and against secession was close. However, by the time those delegates gathered to debate the issue in Baton Rouge, the tide had shifted toward withdrawal from the Union. Louisiana seceded from the United States on January 26, 1861. In early April, the state joined six other slave states in the newly formed **Confederate States of America (CSA)**.

MAP 10.3

Confederate, Union, and Border States

Map Skill: How many states eventually joined the Union? the Confederacy?



The original seven Confederate states, in order of secession, were South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: popular sovereignty, Fugitive Slave Act, Confederate States of America (CSA).
2. Which states were admitted to the Union under the Missouri Compromise of 1820, and why were they admitted as a pair?
3. Why did businesspeople and sugar planters in Louisiana initially have reservations about seceding from the Union?

A PROTEST
AGAINST THE
ORDINANCE OF SECESSION,

Passed by the Louisiana Convention, on the 26th January, 1861, presented to the Convention on that day, by JAMES G. TALIAFERRO, the Delegate from the Parish of Catahoula, who asked that it might be entered upon the journal of the Convention, which was refused.

A Protest against the Ordinance of Secession was submitted to the Louisiana Convention on January 26, 1861—the same day the Ordinance of Secession was passed.

...parish of Catahoula opposes unqualifiedly the separate secession of Louisiana from the
...leave to place upon the records of the convention his reasons for that opposition.
...because, in my deliberate judgment, the wrongs alleged as the cause of
...under the constitution by an energetic execution of the laws of the United
...the guarantees of the constitution, in the Union, southern rights might be
...which the constitution affords.
...and if they should, the inalienable right to resist

Section 2

The Civil War Begins

As you read, look for

- ▶ the incident in Charleston, South Carolina, that started the Civil War;
- ▶ how news of casualties at Shiloh and other battles dampened enthusiasm for serving in the Confederate army;
- ▶ the daring acts of David Farragut on the Mississippi River that led to the surrender of New Orleans and Baton Rouge;
- ▶ actions of General Benjamin Butler in New Orleans that made him a hated figure;
- ▶ the outcome of sieges at Port Hudson and Vicksburg;
- ▶ terms: **Conscription Act, blockade, Confiscation Act, profiteering, Anaconda Plan, siege.**



The four states that seceded after the Civil War began were, in order, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

a-z
GLOSSARY

Just as Governor Moore had taken control of federal facilities in Louisiana, CSA forces in South Carolina demanded that U.S. forces withdraw from Fort Sumter, a federal fort that guarded the entrance to Charleston's harbor. Louisiana native Pierre Gustave Toutant (P. G. T.) Beauregard had been placed in charge of Confederate troops in the city. When federal forces tried to resupply their troops, P. G. T. Beauregard ordered an artillery assault to prevent it. Without the supplies or arms they needed to defend themselves, the federal troops quickly surrendered.

The Confederate assault on Fort Sumter led to cries for war on both sides. When President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers to help put down the Confederate rebellion, four more southern states seceded and joined the CSA. The Civil War had begun.



The firing on Fort Sumter by Confederate cannons began before dawn on April 12, 1861. When fires broke out in the fort and supplies ran out, the Union commander surrendered the fort on April 13.

Special FEATURE

Below: The “Stars and Bars” of the Confederacy. **Middle:** Beauregard Parish Courthouse. **Bottom:** P. G. T. Beauregard Equestrian Statue at the main entrance of New Orleans’ City Park. **Bottom Left:** Fort Sumter.

Who Ordered the First Shots Fired on Fort Sumter?

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, more commonly known as P. G. T. Beauregard, was born in St. Bernard Parish on May 28, 1818. He was proud of his Creole and French heritage and didn’t speak fluent English until age eleven. Inspired by the heroic stories of French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, Beauregard devoted his life to the military. He graduated second in his class from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1838.

After Louisiana seceded from the Union in 1861, Beauregard resigned his position in the U.S. army and joined the Confederate army. His first post was as brigadier general stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. On April 12, 1861, he ordered Confederate troops to fire on Fort Sumter, which was still controlled by the United States—thus beginning the Civil War! Beauregard went on to become one of just eight full generals in the Confederate army. He commanded troops at the First Battle of Bull Run, the Battle of Shiloh, the Siege of Corinth, and in the defense of Virginia and Charleston, South Carolina. In April 1865, Beauregard, along with General Joseph E. Johnston, convinced Jefferson Davis that the war was lost.

Beauregard was one of the few Confederate veterans to become rich. After the war was over, Beauregard returned to New Orleans and began to work on repairing the railroads across Louisiana destroyed during the war. He also supported the Louisiana Lottery. Beauregard died on February 20, 1893, but his legacy can be seen throughout Louisiana. Beauregard Parish is named for him, as well as the Louisiana National Guard’s Camp Beauregard. Would you like to learn more about this unique Louisiana soldier?



Soldiers: Volunteers and Conscripts



In the war's early months, many men eagerly volunteered to serve in the CSA army. Many were as wild to enter the war as Kate Stone's brothers. Thousands of Louisiana volunteers organized within standing militia units or created entirely new ones.

Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat organized one of the volunteer units most closely identified with Louisiana. Wheat was a veteran of the Mexican-American War and a *soldier of fortune* (one who fights in wars primarily for profit or for adventure). He was eager to enter the fight once the Civil War began. Wheat recruited most of his five hundred men, many of them Irish and German immigrants, along the wharves and docks in New Orleans. He was able to supply his battalion with good weapons and new uniforms, but many of his men resisted military discipline. The unit gained a reputation for their willingness to fight the enemy, but also for drinking too much and fighting fellow Confederates. Their *ferocity* (fierceness) and legendary

rowdiness (unruliness) gained them the nickname the "Fighting Tigers" or "Wheat's Tigers." After Wheat's death in June 1862, the Tigers were disbanded and the surviving members were sent to other units. Their questionable reputation, however, remained and extended to all Louisiana soldiers during the Civil War.

Despite initial enthusiasm for serving in the conflict, the numbers of volunteers fell sharply as casualties mounted and it became clear the war would be a long, bloody struggle. To make service more attractive, the Confederate government first offered a *bounty* (reward) to men who were willing to serve. When this failed to provide the desired numbers, the Confederate Congress passed the war's first **Conscription Act** (an act to set up a *draft*—compulsory enlistment for military service) for southern men. The act extended the initial one-year term of enlistment to three years, and required all able-bodied men between eighteen and thirty-five to enlist for the three-year term. Later, men serving in professions considered critical were *exempted* (excused), as were men who were wealthy enough to pay a substitute to serve in their place. The most controversial aspect of Confederate conscription was that it exempted masters or overseers who had more than twenty able-bodied slaves. Since most common men held no slaves and could not pay for a substitute, the complaint began to circulate that the war was "a rich man's struggle but a poor man's fight."



Wheat's Tigers had such a reputation for ferocity that, in 1896, Louisiana State University President Thomas Boyd chose the tiger as LSU's mascot in honor of the unit.

Top Left: Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat recruited five hundred men to join his "Wheat's Tigers."

Below and Bottom: Conditions in army camps were primitive and unsanitary, leading to many deaths from untreated wounds and disease.

Lagniappe

For more than a century, historians accepted the estimate that 620,000 soldiers had died during the Civil War. In 2012, using census and digital records, historians adjusted that estimate to 750,000 deaths.



The War Comes Home

Given the huge number of battle casualties, reluctance to serve was understandable. The Battle of Shiloh, which took place in Tennessee on April 6 and 7, 1862, ended with one in five men—more than twenty-three thousand in all—killed, wounded, captured, or missing. At that time, it was the bloodiest battle in American history. Many Louisiana soldiers fought at Shiloh, and P. G. T. Beauregard directed the Confederate effort on the second day. Over the next few weeks, wounded soldiers and the bodies of those killed arrived back in Louisiana, bringing the war home to the civilian population.

Because water transport was so important to the South's economy, the Union quickly adopted the strategy of a blockade of the region's ports. A **blockade** is the use of naval forces to isolate a seaport and prevent ships from entering or leaving it. By July 1861, the Union navy had established an effective blockade of all southern ports, including the mouth of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. The goal of the blockade was to prohibit shipping, thus damaging the southern economy, and to prevent Confederates from receiving war supplies including weapons.

With a Union blockade at the mouth of the Mississippi, food and supplies had already begun to run short in New Orleans. Because ships could neither leave nor enter the port, normal business operations stopped. Despite repeated warnings that New Orleans was vulnerable to Union attack, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip were the city's only protection to the south. Louisiana had seized the forts, located about seventy miles below New Orleans on both banks of the river, shortly before seceding.

A Union naval fleet led by flag officer David Farragut began to bombard those forts in mid-April of 1862. Finally, on the night of April 24, Farragut made his move. He attempted to lead his fleet upriver past the forts and through the obstructions placed in the river by the Confederates. A spectacular naval battle took place as Confederates fired on the fleet. Farragut's ships returned fire and broke through Confederate chains and flaming barges that were meant to slow their progress. On April 25, New Orleanians witnessed the sight of Union gunboats anchoring across from Jackson Square. Adding to the chaos were the fires that had been set by soldiers and civilians to destroy cotton bales and other goods to keep them out of Union hands.



Fall of New Orleans



An Excerpt from Sarah Moran Dawson's Diary

Confederate troops under Major General Mansfield Lovell had already begun to leave the city and retreat to Fort Moore in Tangipahoa Parish. Many New Orleanians were upset that their city had not been better defended. They alternately blamed Lovell and Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Nor did the angry population readily accept Union occupation. The first American flag hung by Farragut's forces was pulled down, torn to pieces, and distributed to members of a mob by a man named William Mumford. Mumford was later hanged for this action.

General Butler Takes Command

On May 1, David Farragut turned the city over to Union General Benjamin Butler. Farragut then started upriver toward his next objective, the capture of Baton Rouge. Meanwhile, Butler took immediate actions to get New Orleans and its people under control. He supported an existing free market to feed the hungry. He also put civilians and slaves to work cleaning the dirty city in the hopes of avoiding a yellow fever outbreak in the coming months.

Unrest in Occupied New Orleans

Still, many in the city continued to confront or resist Union occupation. Soldiers and officers were particularly surprised by the disrespect shown them by the city's women. Confederate-loyal women expressed their displeasure by wearing small Confederate flags and ribbons, and crossing the street or leaving a streetcar to avoid contact with Union soldiers. In other cases, women or their children actually spat on the occupying troops. Outraged, General Butler issued his infamous General Order No. 28 on May 15. The order demanded that the city's women cease to "insult or show contempt" to Union officers or soldiers. If they did not, Butler threatened punishment.



Lagniappe

When the U.S. Navy was established, Congress did not allow the aristocratic-sounding rank of "admiral." A few rear admirals, then a vice admiral, were named during the Civil War. But in 1866 David Farragut was named the U.S. Navy's first full admiral in honor of his wartime achievements.

Top Right: Admiral David Farragut.
Bottom Left: General Benjamin Butler, the "Bluebeard of New Orleans."
Bottom Right: "Commodore Farragut's Squadron and Captain Porter's Mortar Fleet Entering the Mississippi" from *Harper's Weekly*, May 17, 1862.



Below: General Benjamin Butler.

Bottom: This engraving depicts starving people of New Orleans being fed by U.S. military authorities in 1862.



Nurseries of Treason

Because the schools were teaching their students lessons in Confederate patriotism, Butler considered them “nurseries of treason.” He closed the schools two weeks early. Over the summer, he had northern schoolbooks shipped to the city. He also demanded that teachers take an oath of loyalty to the Union in order to keep their jobs. Many refused to do so and lost their positions. Some parents kept their children home rather than have them taught by Unionist teachers.

Confiscation of Confederate Property

Butler confronted Confederate-loyal people in other ways as well. He vigorously enforced the **Confiscation Act**. This allowed the Union army to *confiscate* (take possession of) the property of those who continued to support the Confederacy. His confiscation of the property of many wealthy New Orleanians, including their family silver, and his harsh treatment of the city’s women earned him the nicknames “Spoons” and “Beast” Butler.

As troops under Butler’s direction began to expand their occupation south of the city, he continued to exercise the rights of confiscation. Union troops fed themselves by taking the property of those Confederates they encountered along Bayou Lafourche and Bayou Teche. Oftentimes, people who had very little to begin with were even more desperate after Union troops moved through.

Butler’s Removal

Despite the Union military successes, back in New Orleans General Butler became involved in repeated conflicts with foreign *consuls* (officials appointed by one country to look after their citizens and business interests in another). Many consuls remained in the city, and often they supported the Confederacy. Butler was also accused of allowing his brother to engage in war **profiteering** (making an unfair profit on essential goods during emergency times). The brother did this by importing food and other goods for resale at very high prices. Butler’s many disputes and the suggestion of corruption—though never proved—led to his dismissal. General Nathaniel Banks replaced Butler in December 1862.



Union Occupation Spreads

Union occupation spread to other parts of the state as well. In early May 1862, Baton Rouge fell to Farragut's fleet. Although Confederate troops contested its possession, the city stayed in Union hands for the rest of the war.

The Anaconda Plan

Now Farragut and other naval officers turned their sights upriver, where the Union goal was to take control of the river at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The strategy for controlling the Mississippi River was called the **Anaconda Plan**. Its goal was to squeeze its opponent into submission, like an *anaconda* (a large snake that crushes its prey in its coils) did its victim. Union control of the river would separate Confederate forces in western Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas from the rest of the Confederacy. This would weaken an already outnumbered army.

Banks also used his ground forces to challenge Confederates in other parts of the state. Union forces had taken control of much of southeastern Louisiana, including Houma and Thibodaux, in 1862. In early 1863, Banks began to move Union forces into southwestern Louisiana, hoping to extend Union control to all parts of the state. Union troops engaged Confederate forces under the command of Richard Taylor.

Despite determined fighting by the Confederates, by the end of April, Union forces controlled most of southwestern Louisiana, including Alexandria, New Iberia, and Vermilionville (today's Lafayette). General Banks even managed to capture Opelousas, forcing the Confederate state government to move to Shreveport.

The Siege at Port Hudson

After establishing control over much of the bottom half of the state, Banks led an overland campaign to take control of Port Hudson, about thirty miles north of Baton Rouge. Union naval forces had been unable to gain control of the Confederate outpost. Confederate soldiers had dug a large network of trenches to protect the fort and give them cover from gunfire.

Lagniappe

Richard Taylor was the son of President Zachary Taylor. His sister had been the first wife of Jefferson Davis, but she died years before Davis became president of the Confederacy.

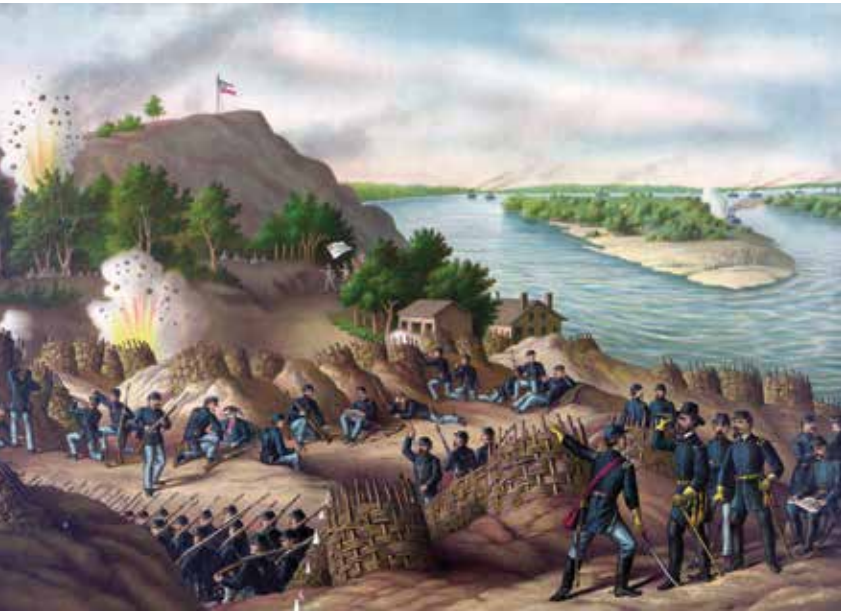


The Anaconda Plan



The 2nd Louisiana Colored Regiment fought bravely on the Union side at the Battle of Port Hudson.

With a force of more than thirty thousand men, Banks ordered three unsuccessful attacks on the much smaller but well-protected Confederate force. Union soldiers suffered many casualties but made little progress. When Banks could not find enough volunteers for a fourth attack, he decided to surround and wait out the Confederates. The siege that followed lasted forty-eight days, the longest in Civil War history. A **siege** is a tactic where an army tries to capture a fort or town by surrounding it and preventing supplies from reaching it.



Above: The siege of Vicksburg.

The Vicksburg Campaign

Ultimately, events upriver at Vicksburg, Mississippi, led to a Confederate surrender. Vicksburg was located on a very high bluff approximately 150 miles above Port Hudson. It was well protected by a large Confederate force and had enough firepower to prevent a large Union naval fleet from passing below. For more than a year, Union forces had been trying to find a way to move troops along the river on the Louisiana side so they could cross the river south of Vicksburg and reach the city overland.

Union troops and slaves taken from nearby plantations had even begun to dig a canal designed to reroute water from the Mississippi. This would create a shortcut for transporting

troops to Vicksburg. After months of work, the canal collapsed. In the end, Union General Ulysses S. Grant had to march his troops more than one hundred miles to achieve his objective. The troops were then ferried across the river so they could begin their advance on Vicksburg.

Like General Banks at Port Hudson, Grant created a siege around Vicksburg. After being forced to hide in caves to avoid Union bombardment and eating all the food available—including rats and mules—Confederate forces surrendered on July 4, 1863. Coincidentally, this was the same day Confederate General Robert E. Lee began his retreat from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, having been defeated on the battlefield the previous day. Upon hearing the news, the remaining Confederate forces at Port Hudson surrendered to General Banks on July 9, 1863.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: Confiscation Act, profiteering, Anaconda Plan.
2. What incident in South Carolina marked the beginning of the Civil War?
3. What were some of the positive and negative actions of General Benjamin Butler in New Orleans?

Section 3

The Last Years of the War

As you read, look for

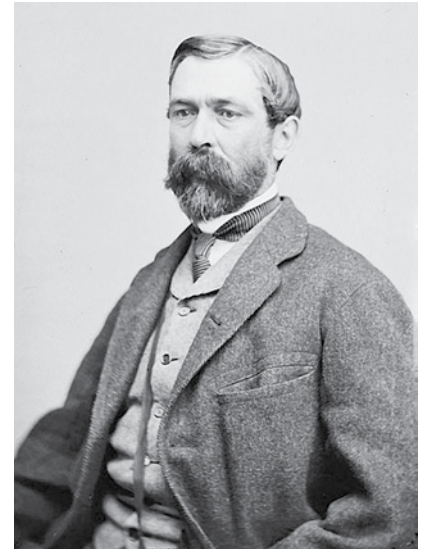
- ▶ the removal of state government to new capitals;
- ▶ two governors who served Louisiana during difficult times;
- ▶ the purpose of the Emancipation Proclamation;
- ▶ events of April 1865 that ended the war and created an uncertain future for all people of the South;
- ▶ terms: **chicory**, **Emancipation Proclamation**, **assassination**.

a-z
GLOSSARY

The Confederate losses of Vicksburg and at Gettysburg turned the tide of war in the Union's favor, but the conflict continued for another year and a half. In Louisiana, the troops, the government, and displaced civilians—both free and slave—were on the move in the last years of the war.

Government in Exile

When Baton Rouge surrendered to Union forces in May 1862, Governor Moore was forced to move the state government. He relocated first to Opelousas and then to Shreveport. Serving as governor through most of the war, Moore was working under extreme hardship. Louisiana provided its required number of soldiers to the Confederacy, but this left Moore very little manpower to protect the people. On one occasion, a Confederate officer confiscated weapons and ammunition Moore had purchased for home defense. Still, Moore persevered and was instrumental in convincing CSA President Jefferson Davis to create a Confederate command in western Louisiana. Major General Richard Taylor was put in charge of the force.



Compare Civil War Battles



Above: Major General Richard Taylor.
Left: The St. Landry Parish Courthouse in Opelousas served as the temporary capitol of Louisiana's Confederate government in 1862.

Lagniappe

Some observers at the time suggested that Nathaniel Banks started the Red River Campaign to make himself famous so he would be an attractive candidate for president in 1864.

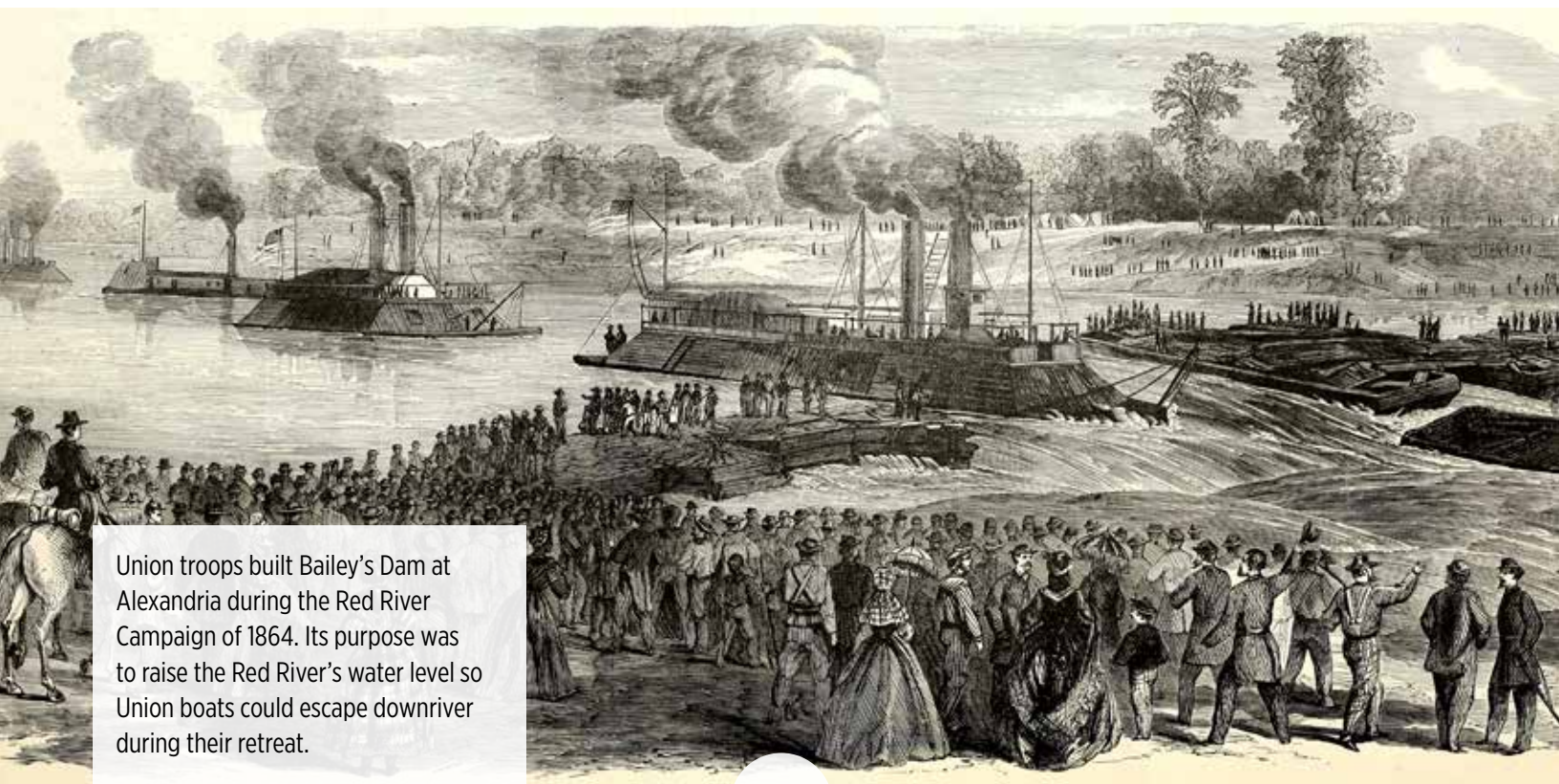
Henry Watkins Allen ran unopposed for governor in 1863. When Moore's term ended, Allen took charge of Confederate Louisiana. Allen had volunteered early in the war and had been injured at the Battle of Shiloh. He also fought in the battle to protect Baton Rouge. He was so badly injured there that he had to use crutches for the rest of his life.

Despite his injuries, Allen was an energetic and creative leader who served under extremely difficult circumstances. Food and other basic supplies were hard to come by in Confederate-held areas. Allen opened a trade channel with Mexico through Texas. Although some in the Confederacy criticized the decision, the trade route allowed him to exchange cotton for desperately needed food and medicine. Allen also established a group of state stores where citizens could buy supplies at fair prices. He even paid benefits to families whose household heads were serving in the war.

The Red River Campaign

During the spring of 1864, Union General Nathaniel Banks led a campaign in which he hoped to take possession of Shreveport. By doing so, he could put the entire state of Louisiana in Union hands. The campaign is generally criticized for poor decision-making on both sides.

Confederate Major General Richard Taylor did score one impressive victory over Union forces near Mansfield in early April. However, he was unable to take control of Banks's army as it tried to retreat. Union naval forces also had a difficult time returning down the Red River. In the end, the Red River Campaign yielded little in the way of meaningful military victory. Still, Taylor and other forces pushed Union troops back toward central Louisiana, preventing them from occupying the entire state and from extending Union control into Texas.



Union troops built Bailey's Dam at Alexandria during the Red River Campaign of 1864. Its purpose was to raise the Red River's water level so Union boats could escape downriver during their retreat.



Life in Occupied Louisiana

Government was not the only thing on the move during the war. Many civilians were forced to flee Union forces or, like Kate Stone and her mother, were made refugees when their localities became active war zones. Thus, even those who did not serve in the conflict experienced the chaos of war. People who managed to stay in their homes were subjected to repeated *plunder* (looting) by Union and Confederate forces, who helped themselves to food, animals, and any other items of value. The confiscation of goods was made worse by the fact that it was nearly impossible to buy new goods to replace those taken.

Whether they lived in Confederate- or Union-occupied Louisiana, people had to be resourceful just to get by. Luxury items like coffee, sugar, and tea became rare. Some resorted to using **chicory** (a bitter herb whose root was ground to serve as a replacement for coffee). Even basic supplies like paper became rare. One newspaper began to print its news on the back of sheets of wallpaper.



Chicory root.

MAP 10.4

The Civil War in Louisiana

Map Skill: Which battle(s) took place closest to your home?

Special FEATURE

The Surprising Role of Salt in the Civil War

Chances are that today you ate one of the most important foods during the Civil War. Can you guess what it is? The answer is salt! Salt is a key ingredient in many food products we eat every day, and it is an essential element in human nutrition. Salt has many other uses like preserving meat, which was very important before refrigerators were invented. It is also used for dyeing fabric and tanning leather. When the Civil War began in the United States, salt works and salt mines became targets of the Union army. Union General William Tecumseh Sherman wrote in 1862 that, "Salt is eminently contraband, because of its use in curing meats without which armies cannot be subsisted." In other words, if an army doesn't have any salt, it will not be able to feed its soldiers.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, New Iberia was one of only five places in the entire Confederacy that produced salt. This made the town very important to citizens and the military. On May 4, 1862, the large salt dome at Avery Island was discovered just ten miles southwest of New Iberia. Today, geologists believe that the salt dome at Avery Island is as deep as Mount Everest is tall! The discovery of Avery Island's salt dome was very significant as the salt shortage grew in the Confederacy. The limited salt supply was rationed in the military and also to civilians. In Georgia, salt was reported to sell for \$125 per bag if it could be found at all. In Texas, a "donkey load" of salt cost 2.25 ounces of gold!

Soon after the Avery Island discovery, the Confederate army stationed two companies of infantry soldiers and one section of artillery to defend the salt mine from Union forces. However, on April 17, 1863, Union forces led by General Nathaniel P. Banks captured Avery Island and ended its salt production for the remainder of the war. Salt became increasingly scarce in the Confederacy as the Civil War continued. This made preserving meat almost impossible. In the end, the Union's war on salt was just part of its war on the economy of the Confederacy. How do you think the war might have changed if the Union had not targeted salt works and salt mines?



Left: At the beginning of the war, the Union army considered slaves contraband of war and used them as laborers. **Below:** This Henry Louis Stephens painting shows a man reading a newspaper report of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Emancipation Begins

Former slaves were also on the move. Whether owners moved their slaves to Texas, or enslaved people freed themselves, there was no denying that the institution of slavery began to crumble during the war itself. Early in the war, Union forces considered slaves contraband of war and used them as laborers. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln's **Emancipation Proclamation** went into effect. It was not, as some believe, the end of slavery. Instead, Lincoln's proclamation was a war measure, designed to create *havoc* (chaos, confusion), because it only freed slaves in Confederate-occupied areas. Because the Proclamation applied only to slaves in Confederate-held locations, technically, it did not apply to slaves in Union-occupied Louisiana.

Despite its limited nature, there is no doubt that the Emancipation Proclamation changed the course and nature of the war. As one historian has written, it transformed the war from one "to restore the Union into one to destroy the old Union and build a new one purged of human bondage."



The War Ends

Abraham Lincoln was reelected president in November 1864. The Union had dominated the Confederacy in battle for more than a year, and by early 1865, it was clear the war was slowly winding down. The Civil War's official end took place on April 9, 1865. At that time, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. It took two additional months for all the Confederate capitals to surrender. Louisiana's Confederate capital at Shreveport was the last to do so, surrendering on June 2, 1865.



The Emancipation Proclamation



Uncertainty at War's End

The war had ended, but questions about what would come next for the still-divided nation were unanswered. Adding to the uncertainty, five days after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House, President Lincoln was assassinated by an actor and Confederate sympathizer named John Wilkes Booth. **Assassination** is the murder of a prominent person, usually for political reasons. The president died from his wounds on the morning of April 15, 1865.

At a time when strong leadership was needed, uncertainty prevailed in the South as well. The CSA ceased to exist and its member states were left to fend for themselves. Much of the South's infrastructure had been destroyed by war and occupation. Hundreds of thousands of men were dead, and families were left to recover—often with no head of household or one who had been badly wounded.

It would take months for many soldiers to make their way home to Louisiana. It would take years for life to return to normal. Even then, the state was never again as it had been before the war, particularly because slavery came to an end. Former slave owners lost not only their laborers but also the economic value they represented. Based on the average value of slaves in the state in 1860, estimates for the loss in economic terms are as high as \$500 million in Louisiana alone.

Although they now had their freedom, the former slaves also had a difficult journey ahead. Their fates, which had once been in the hands of their owners, now fell to individuals and families. Many freed slaves went in search of friends or relatives from whom they had been separated. Many couples, some recently reunited, sought formal marriage ceremonies to give their unions the force of law. Many newly freed people migrated to cities like New Orleans, looking for economic opportunities beyond agriculture. Former slaves who stayed in the same locations still had to learn to negotiate for wages with their former masters.

Lagniappe

Lee's surrender took place not in a courthouse but in a private home (the McLean house) in the town of Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

Top: Surrender at Appomattox Court House.

Like many white southerners, Kate Stone had a difficult time accepting Confederate defeat and the end of slavery. A month after the war ended, Kate wrote sadly, “Our glorious struggle of the last four years, our hardships, our sacrifices, and worst of all, the torrent of noble blood that had been shed for our loved Country” were “all in vain.”

Some disgruntled whites would turn to violence in the years to come. Even those who sought a peaceful postwar Louisiana faced many challenges in a changed society. The process of putting the state and the nation back together would be a long, painful, and sometimes brutal one. It is to that process of reconstructing the South that we now turn.

Below: Soldiers who were lucky enough to return home from the war were often suffering from illness, crippling wounds, and even amputations.

Reviewing the Section

1. Define in sentence form: chicory, Emancipation Proclamation, assassination.
2. Why did the state government have to relocate during the Civil War? To what cities did it relocate?
3. What happened to freed slaves once the Civil War was over?



Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: Sectionalism and Secession

- Between 1820 and 1850, political disputes between North and South arose over slavery, its expansion, and states' rights.
- The Missouri Compromise established a boundary separating slave and free areas in the Louisiana Territory.
- The Compromise of 1850 included California joining the Union as a free state; the abolition of the slave trade (but not slavery) in Washington, DC; and a stronger fugitive slave law.
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe increased public opposition to slavery in the North.
- The Republican Party, founded in 1854, opposed the expansion of slavery.
- In 1860, southern and border states split their vote among John Bell, John C. Breckinridge, and Stephen A. Douglas. This allowed Republican Abraham Lincoln, with electoral support in northern and western states, to win the presidency.
- Abraham Lincoln's election led to seven southern states, including Louisiana, seceding from the Union.

Section 2: The Civil War Begins

- The Civil War began when Confederate forces fired on federal troops at Fort Sumter, which guarded the entrance to Charleston's harbor in South Carolina. Federal troops surrendered to Confederate forces commanded by Louisiana native, P. G. T. Beauregard.
- Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat recruited 500 men, many from New Orleans' wharves and docks, for a battalion that earned the name "Fighting Tigers."

- A Union blockade of all southern ports included the mouth of the Mississippi River. In April 1862, David Farragut captured New Orleans, then placed it under the command of General Benjamin Butler, who outraged citizens through his harsh orders and actions.
- As part of the Union army's Anaconda Plan to control the Mississippi River, General Nathaniel Banks laid siege to Port Hudson. The defenders of Port Hudson surrendered after hearing of the fall of Vicksburg.

Section 3: The Last Years of the War

- In May 1862, Baton Rouge fell to Union forces. Governor Thomas Overton Moore relocated the state government to Opelousas, then to Shreveport. Beginning in 1864, Governor Henry Watkins Allen brought much needed food and medicine to the state through trade with Mexico.
- Union General Banks led the Red River Campaign to try to capture Shreveport and gain control of the rest of Louisiana. Confederate Major General Richard Taylor's forces prevented Banks from obtaining his objectives, and Union forces withdrew to central Louisiana in the spring of 1864.
- On April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, effectively ending the Civil War. Shreveport was the last capital to surrender, on June 2.
- Actor John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Lincoln five days after Lee's surrender. Louisiana and the nation faced many problems at war's end.

The P. G. T. Beauregard House
in New Orleans.



Activities for Learning

Understanding the Facts



1. What three issues led to political disputes between North and South in the years 1820 to 1850?
2. Which two states were admitted to the Union as a result of the Missouri Compromise? Where was the boundary line drawn between free and slave areas?
3. Which part of the Compromise of 1850 proved most controversial?
4. In the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which character was the slave? The cruel master? Where was the setting for most of the novel?
5. Which political party was formed in the 1850s? What was its motto?
6. Which seven southern states were the first to secede from the Union?
7. How did President Lincoln and the southern states respond to the firing on Fort Sumter?
8. Describe the "Fighting Tigers" who served under Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat.
9. What strategy did the Union use to damage the southern economy?
10. The citizens of New Orleans gave what three nicknames to the despised Union General Benjamin Butler?
11. What was the goal of the Anaconda Plan?
12. Which two Confederate strongholds on the Mississippi River were captured by siege?
13. In what ways did Governor Allen's leadership help Louisiana citizens during the war?
14. Where did the Red River Campaign take place?
15. When the slaves were freed, what was the economic loss in Louisiana?



The P. G. T. Beauregard statue in New Orleans

Developing Critical Thinking



1. The phrases "runaway slave" or "fugitive slave" reflect whose perspective? Suggest another phrase that reflects the slave's perspective.
2. Why did some individuals refer to the Civil War as "a rich man's struggle but a poor man's fight"?

Writing across the Curriculum



Telegrams were an important but expensive means of communication during the nineteenth century: the longer the telegram the more it cost. You are the commander of Confederate forces at Port Hudson during the siege. Write three separate telegrams (each message is to be 25 words or less) updating headquarters on the condition of your men, your food supplies, and the strength of the enemy. Be sure each telegram has historical authenticity by incorporating information from photographs and primary sources as found at this website: www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/71hudson/71hudson.htm.

Exploring Louisiana on the Internet



Go to www.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/bystate.htm and find the battles fought in Louisiana. How many Civil War battles were fought in Louisiana? Which battle had the greatest number of casualties?

Building 21st-Century Skills: Interpreting Political Cartoons



The purpose of a political cartoon is to illuminate an "essential truth." A political cartoonist often uses a combination of individuals, objects, and words to communicate this truth. In order to interpret a political cartoon, begin by identifying the individuals and objects used by the cartoonist. What do these objects symbolize? Note any words or numbers used, especially the caption. Finally, describe any action in the cartoon. What is the message of this combination of individuals, objects, words, and/or action?

Now look at the political cartoon found on page 283. What event or person from this chapter is the cartoon's subject? What is the cartoon's message?