

A Growing United States Grows Less United

Chapter Preview

Terms:

impresment, embargo, Indian Removal Act, manifest destiny, Gadsden Purchase, abolition, Underground Railroad, Missouri Compromise, protective tariff, nullification, secede, free soil, Compromise of 1850, Kansas-Nebraska Act

People:

Napoleon Bonaparte, James Monroe, Tecumseh, William Henry Harrison, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Davy Crockett, Martin Van Buren, Antonio López de Santa Anna, James P. Henderson, Forty-Niners, Eli Whitney, William Lloyd Garrison, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Grimké sisters, John C. Calhoun, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Stephen Douglas, John Brown, James Buchanan, Dred Scott

Places:

San Antonio (Texas), Republic of Texas, Oregon Territory, Bleeding Kansas, Harpers Ferry (Virginia)

If you lived in North Carolina in the antebellum decades, your family would likely have been farmers. As you learned in Chapter 7, these farmers met most of their economic needs by what they could produce themselves. Because farming required a lot of labor, it was an advantage to have a large family. The average family had five or six people in a house; some had many more.

A problem arose as the children grew older. Where would they live and raise their own children? A farm that could feed one family could not necessarily feed the families of the younger generations. In general, the oldest male child would expect to inherit the family farm when the father died. What happened when there were multiple brothers? Farmers often had little cash money with which to buy land.

You also learned in Chapter 7 that farmers did not have a good understanding of how to manage soil. Nutrients were used up by overfarming or washed away by erosion in many areas. These two problems reduced the size of crops on many of our state's farms.

Good land could be found that was cheap or free on the western frontier in faraway places like Kentucky and Tennessee. Many North Carolinians joined thousands of their fellow Americans who migrated westward in search of greater economic opportunity.

In North Carolina and other southern states, much of the labor on larger farms was done by slaves. A young North Carolinian who wanted to go into the farming business in the West might expect to use slave labor. But many Americans in other parts of the nation were beginning to speak out against slavery, and resistance was starting to grow against allowing slavery to expand beyond the southern states.

The effect of winning several wars, purchasing territory from other countries, and pushing the native peoples further west opened a vast frontier. For decades, Americans tried to build a prosperous future there. New inventions made moving west an easier task, and these new inventions helped farmers trade their goods more easily with the rest of the world.

In the 1872 John Gast painting, *American Progress*, the female figure representing progress travels from east to west, bringing with her the telegraph wire that will tie the country together.

Signs of the Times



U.S. Expansion

Between 1845 and 1853, our nation achieved its “manifest destiny.” With the addition of Texas (1845), the Oregon Territory (1846), the Mexican Cession (1848), and the Gadsden Purchase (1853), the United States controlled a vast area of land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Exploration

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out in 1804 to explore the new Louisiana Territory purchased from France in 1803. In 1826, the first U.S. warship to circumnavigate the world, the *Vincennes*, left New York. In 1840, Captain Charles Wilkes explored Antarctica and claimed it for the United States. In 1853, the U.S. Navy under Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Japan, which had previously been closed to foreigners.

Music

Slave songs and spirituals were sung in the field to communicate and pass the time. Many songs, like “Go Down, Moses,” had religious meaning. Other songs, like “Follow the Drinking Gourd” and “Wade

in the Water,” had secret messages that told slaves how to escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Stephen Foster composed his most famous songs—including “Camptown Races,” “Oh! Susanna,” and “Old Folks at Home”—during this era.

Entertainment

In 1835, P. T. Barnum began the first circus tour of the United States. In 1850, he introduced singer Jenny Lind, the “Swedish Nightingale,” to America. In 1851, the United States participated in the first World’s Fair in history, in London. In 1853, the first World’s Fair in the United States opened in New York City.

Literature

Washington Irving’s *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (1820) was one of the first works of fiction by an American author to become popular outside the United States. James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826) and Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* (1851) were other notable American novels. Popular books by Europeans included *Grimm’s Fairy Tales* (1812), Victor Hugo’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1831), and novels by English authors such as Jane Austen, e.g., *Pride and Prejudice* (1813); the Brontë sisters, e.g., *Jane Eyre* (1847) and *Wuthering Heights* (1848); Charles Dickens, e.g., *A Christmas Carol* (1843); and Mary Shelley, e.g., *Frankenstein* (1818).

Education

In the 1830s, William McGuffey was hired to write graded readers for schoolchildren. The books, in six grade levels, did not include religious instruction but emphasized a strong moral code with stories where hard work was rewarded and misdeeds were punished. Versions of these influential textbooks are still in print today. Ohio’s Oberlin College, founded in 1833, was a pioneer in the education of women and African Americans. It admitted women from its founding and regularly admitted African American students from 1835.





1794 - Eli Whitney patented his cotton gin



1803 - Louisiana Purchase

1807 - Congress abolished importation of slaves

1812 - War of 1812 began

1815 - War of 1812 ended

1820 - Missouri Compromise

1828 - Andrew Jackson elected president for the first of two terms

1830 - Indian Removal Act

1836 - Texas gained independence from Mexico

1845 - Texas became an American state

1846 - Oregon Treaty
Mexican-American War began

1848 - Gold discovered in California
Women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York

1850 - Compromise of 1850

1852 - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* published

1853 - Gadsden Purchase

1854 - Kansas-Nebraska Act

1857 - *Dred Scott* decision

1859 - John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry

Figure 8.1

Timeline
1790-1860

1790

1800

1820

1840

1860

British defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in Belgium - **1815**

Mexico gained independence from Spain - **1821**

A totally deaf Ludwig van Beethoven composed his Symphony No. 9 - **1824**

Slavery abolished in the British Empire - **1833**

Beginning of Irish Potato Famine - **1845**

Construction of clock tower at London's Houses of Parliament, home of the famous bell "Big Ben" - **1859**

Top: Some of the first Americans to cross the Appalachians and settle the West were North Carolinians. This depiction shows Daniel Boone and his family crossing the Cumberland Gap in 1770. The Boones would be pioneers in the settlement of Kentucky and Missouri. **Above:** This 1904 postage stamp commemorated the Louisiana Purchase. **Below:** Jacques-Louis David, Napoleon Bonaparte's official artist, painted this complex scene of the French leader's coronation as Emperor Napoleon I.

Section 1

Growth of the Western Lands

Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ a land purchase that doubled the size of our nation;
- ▶ Andrew Jackson's role in the War of 1812 and in Indian removal;
- ▶ how victories over Mexico helped fulfill manifest destiny;
- ▶ the addition of Oregon and California to the United States;
- ▶ terms: **impressment, embargo, Indian Removal Act, manifest destiny, Gadsden Purchase.**



At the start of the nineteenth century, the United States was a youngster compared to the dominant countries of the world. England, France, and Spain were among a group of powerful nations with more than a thousand years of history. The United States, on the other hand, had declared its independence only twenty-four years earlier. The other countries judged themselves, and others, by their financial strength, their military power, and the amount of land they controlled. The United States was relatively undeveloped. It had a small army and only about a half dozen ships in its navy. The United States did have a good bit of land, however, and an opportunity arose that allowed the country to double its size.

Above: A ceremony at the Place d'Armes in New Orleans marked the transfer of Louisiana from France to the United States. On December 20, 1803, the tricolor French flag was lowered and the American flag was raised.

Right: On March 9, 1804, the formal transfer of Upper Louisiana to the United States took place at St. Louis, in today's Missouri.



The Louisiana Purchase

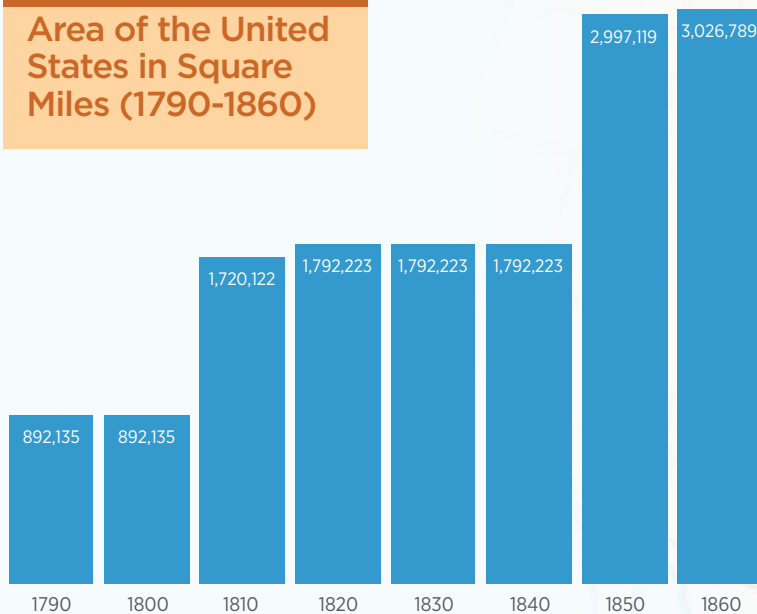
During this time, thousands of Americans tried to move west of the Appalachians to take advantage of fresh soil and access to a port that could ship their goods almost anywhere on earth. All the rivers that ran west from the ridge of the Appalachians eventually went into the Mississippi River. This allowed access to the port of New Orleans, a city established by the French early in the colonial period. A group of North Carolinians from the Catawba River area settled near Cape Girardeau—in today’s state of Missouri—in hopes of taking advantage of this trade.

Americans did not have a guarantee that they could use the port of New Orleans. Although the Mississippi was part of the nation’s border, New Orleans still belonged to Spain. On several occasions, the Spanish government closed the port, shutting down trade and destroying the expected profits of businessmen and farmers alike. The frustration of western settlers was great. Some even supported the idea of breaking away from the United States, forming their own country and taking the lower Mississippi River area by force from Spain.

In the meantime, France, under the military leader Napoleon Bonaparte, was fighting a number of expensive wars in an effort to expand its territory. Napoleon had made a secret deal with King Charles IV of Spain to return Louisiana to French control. President Thomas Jefferson learned of this deal and asked James Monroe to go to Paris to explore the idea of buying New Orleans for the United States. Jefferson wrote to Monroe that he had “the unlimited confidence of the administration & of the Western people.” Jefferson added, “All eyes, all hopes, are now fixed on you, ... for on the event of this mission depends the future destinies of this republic.”

Figure 8.2

Area of the United States in Square Miles (1790-1860)



DID YOU KNOW...

The cost of Louisiana amounted to less than three cents per acre.

DID YOU KNOW...

James Monroe had to sell his personal china and silverware to pay his own way to France to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans.

The United States government was not wealthy, but with settlers in the West demanding uninterrupted access to the river and port system, Congress gave Monroe permission to spend approximately \$9 million for the purchase. He sailed to Paris to complete the mission in March of 1803. Were the French interested in selling the city? How much would it cost? What he learned from the French was a shock. Napoleon was willing to sell not only the city of New Orleans but *all* of Louisiana. He needed the money to continue his military expansion. By May, the American negotiation team agreed to a price of \$15 million for approximately 828,000 square miles of land.

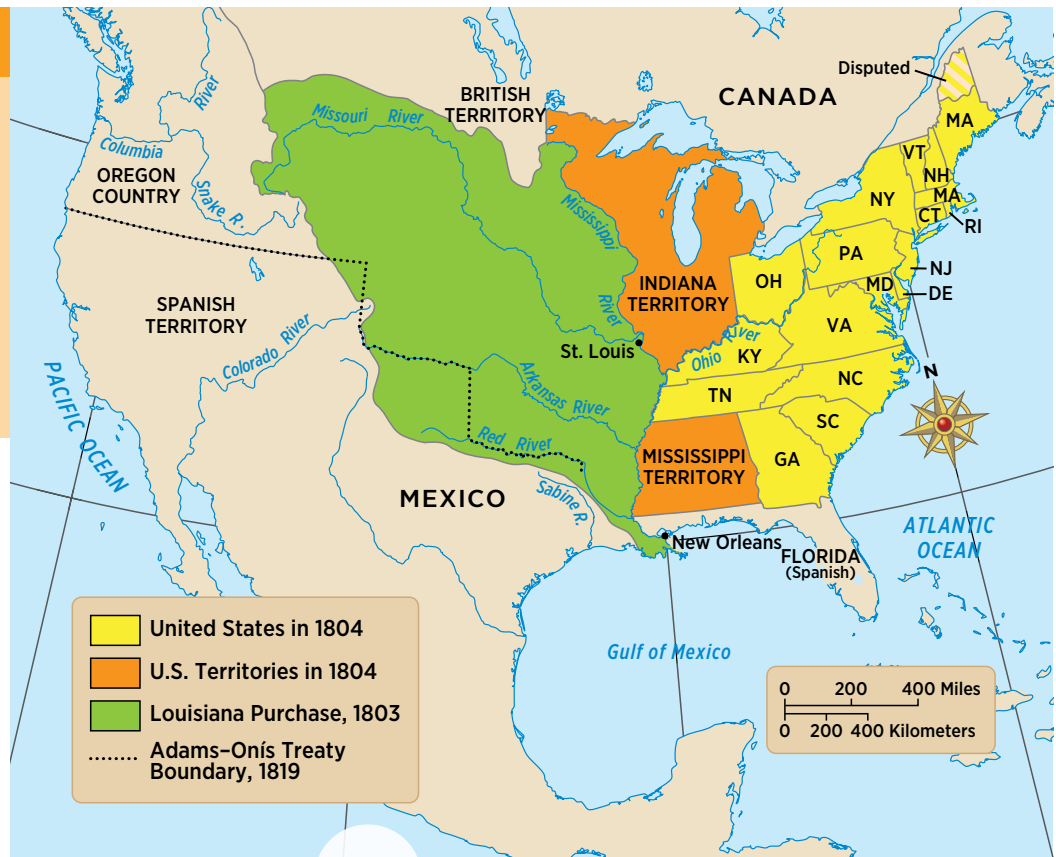
Monroe knew he had not been given permission to spend that amount of money. However, he believed the offer to be such a great deal for the United States that he signed the agreement anyway. President Jefferson was thrilled with the transaction, because it seemed the United States was getting almost unlimited space to build an “empire of liberty.” Also, with France out of the picture, the United States would have one less European power to deal with on its borders.

Spending such a huge sum of money went against Jefferson’s usual thinking about governmental authority and spending. Jefferson knew the constitution had not granted him the power to make the purchase, but he felt that it was in the growing nation’s best interest to buy the land. Although a few, like North Carolina’s frugal (not wasteful) congressman Nathaniel Macon, opposed the deal, most Americans were excited to see their country grow so quickly and gain control of miles of rivers and the port at New Orleans. Congress approved the deal and agreed to borrow money for the purchase. With the signing of a few papers over the course of a few months, the United States doubled in size.

Map 8.1

The Louisiana Purchase

Map Skill: What formed the eastern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase? Which countries held land in North America after the Louisiana Purchase?



The War of 1812

The British and the French were in conflict again in the early 1800s, and the young United States was unable to stay out of the problem. Americans believed that, as a neutral country, they should be able to trade with both Great Britain and France. The British and French had other ideas.

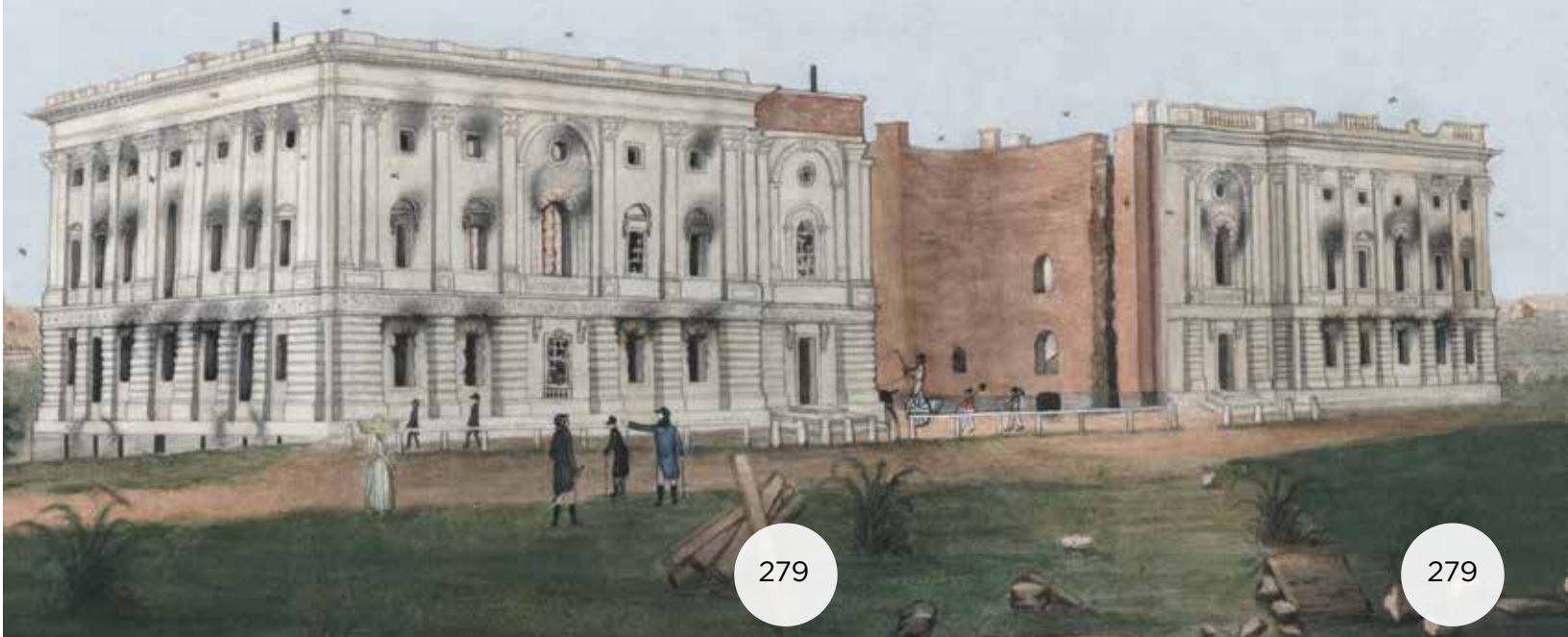
As mentioned in Chapter 7, one British strategy to improve its navy and hurt France was to kidnap American sailors. This practice was called **impressment**. For example, an American ship carrying passengers, mail, and goods would set sail from a city such as Baltimore, Maryland. As it traveled toward its destination, perhaps a port in the Mediterranean Sea, a British warship would come alongside and fire a cannon across the bow of the American ship, forcing it to slow or stop. The American sailors would be required to line up on deck, and a British officer would select several of them, claim that they were British, and drag them off to serve on his own ship.

In addition to impressment, the British ordered American merchants not to trade in certain types of goods. They even stopped and boarded American ships at sea to determine if the Americans were following British rules. Finally, the British forbade American ships from trading in certain ports in Europe. All of these actions angered Americans.

The French were also guilty of trying to make rules for the Americans. Napoleon said that his ships were allowed to capture any American ship that had landed at a British port. Also, if an American ship had been boarded by the British and then set free, it could be captured by a French ship.

Because the United States had a weak navy, there was very little it could do to defend itself from the actions of the British and French. President Jefferson's plan was to issue an **embargo** (a government order that limits trade in some way). No American merchant ships were allowed to sail to *any* foreign country. Goods such as cotton, lumber, and flour from the United States would not be available in Europe. Americans would not be able to buy china, glass, tools, wines, and other goods from Europe. Jefferson believed that Europeans' demand for trade would cause Napoleon and the British to treat American merchant ships more respectfully.

This watercolor and ink painting shows the U.S. Capitol after it was burned by the British in the War of 1812.





By 1812, there was no improvement in relations. In fact, the British had begun providing weapons to Native Americans along the frontier. As a result, the United States declared war on Great Britain. The British had hundreds of thousands of soldiers and sailors with over one thousand ships. The United States Navy consisted of only sixteen ships. It seemed unlikely that the Americans could have an outright win against the British, but they had beaten them before.

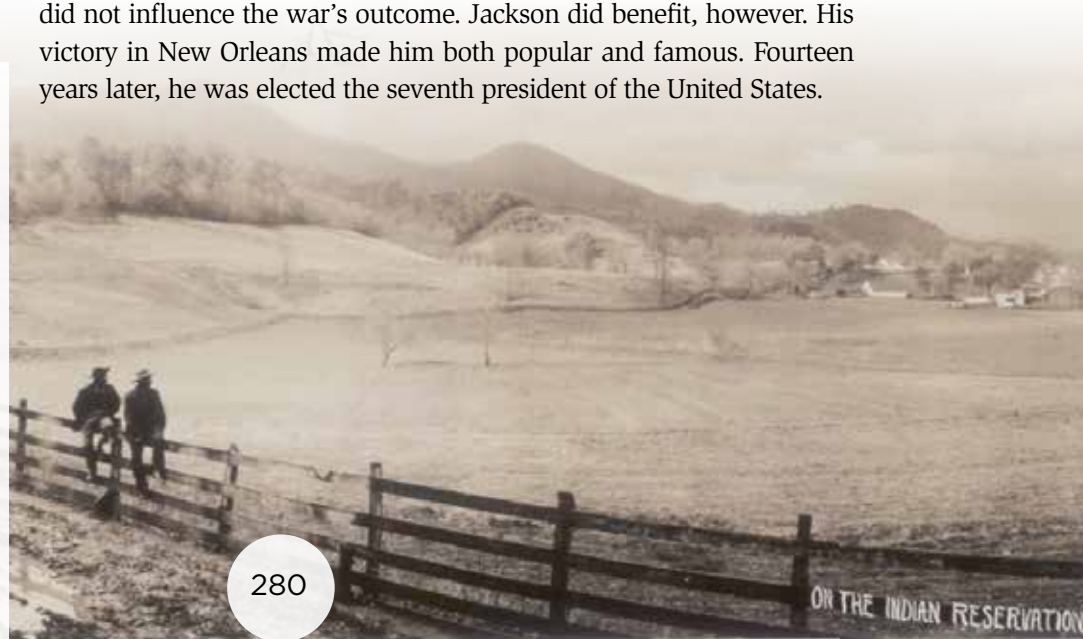
The war lasted nearly three years. Fighting took place along the Canadian border, the Atlantic coast, and in the Gulf of Mexico around New Orleans. Americans had great victories in the Great Lakes, but eventually Great Britain was able to blockade the Atlantic coast, keeping American ships stuck in port and unable to trade.

British troops sailed up Chesapeake Bay and up the Potomac River in 1814. After they attacked Washington, DC, and burned the Capitol, the White House, and numerous other buildings, they later attacked Baltimore, Maryland. It was from this battle that Francis Scott Key later penned “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which has become our national anthem.

More than eight thousand British troops were sent to capture New Orleans in January 1815. Such a capture would allow the British to control or stop trade from the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico. The Battle of New Orleans did not go well for the British. Andrew Jackson, born in North Carolina, was the general sent to defend the city. He and his men held off the British attack with only 13 casualties, compared to over 2,600 casualties on the British side.

A treaty between the United States and Great Britain had been signed in Belgium on December 24, 1814—*before* the Battle of New Orleans. Unfortunately for the dead, news traveled slowly, and the Battle of New Orleans did not influence the war’s outcome. Jackson did benefit, however. His victory in New Orleans made him both popular and famous. Fourteen years later, he was elected the seventh president of the United States.

Above: Andrew Jackson’s heroic leadership at the Battle of New Orleans made him a famous and popular figure and helped him win the presidency in 1828. **Right:** Although this scene from the Qualla area of the Cherokee nation was photographed in the 1880s, the meadow and surrounding hills looked just like the land had for centuries. The Cherokee used open spaces like this for both pasture and gardens.



Removal of the Native People

When George Washington was president, it is thought that about half of the territory of the United States was occupied by Native Americans. Many of the tribes had been moving west as a result of the growth of white settlement. As settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains and expanded into new lands, *skirmishes* (brief battles) were bound to occur. Treaties made between the United States and the natives often did not last as pressure mounted for the government to use its military power to remove the Indians once and for all.

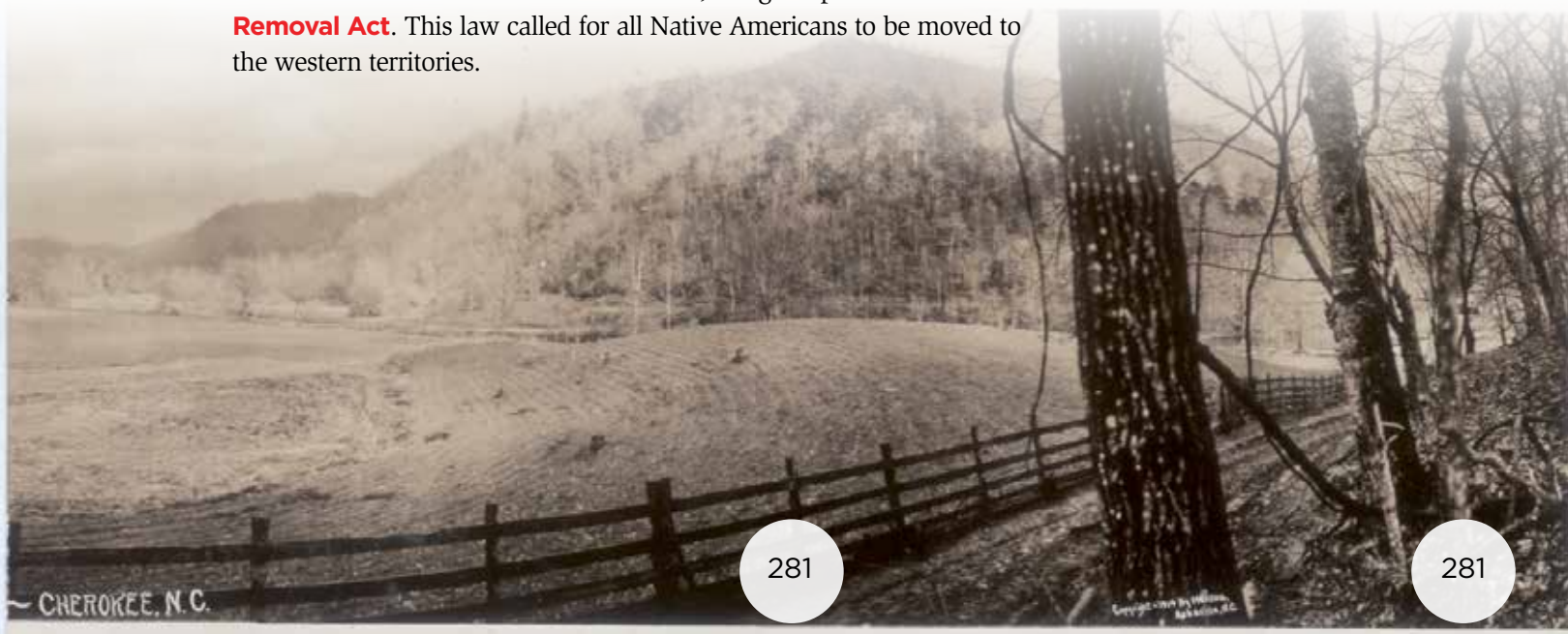
In the Northwest Territory, the Shawnee leader Tecumseh tried to unite the smaller tribes to increase their military strength. Tecumseh's power grew into a legitimate threat to the settlers, and William Henry Harrison was charged with protecting the frontier. In November 1811, Harrison defeated Tecumseh in a fight known as the Battle of Tippecanoe. This loss weakened but did not destroy the Indian threat. It did push the Indians further west and out of the Northwest Territory.

Tecumseh's ideas split the tribes of the Southeast. Those that wanted to fight were called Red Sticks, and those that wanted peace were called White Sticks. During the War of 1812, many of the Red Sticks fought with the British against the United States. On August 30, 1813, a thousand Red Sticks attacked Fort Mims in present-day Alabama. About four hundred people were killed by the Red Sticks, including women and children. Cries of "Remember Fort Mims" were heard all over the country. Troops from Georgia, Tennessee, and the new Mississippi Territory began attacks in the Creek territory. Over the course of a year, more battles were fought. On March 27, 1814, General Andrew Jackson finally defeated the Red Sticks in Alabama. Jackson forced the Creek to sign a treaty giving most of their land to the United States government. Jackson gained fame and experience that helped position him for his role in the Battle of New Orleans less than a year later.

Andrew Jackson took office as president in March of 1829. Jackson had been friendly to the Native Americans, especially the Cherokee, when he needed their help fighting the Red Sticks. However, he was wise enough politically to know that white voters wanted Native Americans removed from the southern states. In 1830, Congress passed the **Indian Removal Act**. This law called for all Native Americans to be moved to the western territories.

DID YOU KNOW...

When William Henry Harrison ran as the Whig presidential candidate in 1840, with John Tyler as his running mate, a popular campaign song called "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" helped them win the election. Harrison died from pneumonia on the 32nd day of his presidency. This made him the first president to die in office and the president serving the shortest time in office in U.S. history.



The Choctaw in Alabama and Mississippi were actually the first to be removed under the power of the Indian Removal Act. After years of broken treaties, fighting, and failed ideas, the surviving Creek were finally moved west. The discovery of gold in north Georgia encouraged rapid removal of the Cherokee.

As described in Chapter 7, most Cherokee were forced westward from their towns and farms. While some in North Carolina had a different outcome, most were destined to make the difficult trek westward on the Trail of Tears. In December 1835, a hastily signed treaty with a small group of tribal leaders proved a bad deal for the Cherokee. They received a small amount of food and little money to make the trip west.

National leaders such as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and Davy Crockett (born in North Carolina in the area that became Tennessee) tried to negotiate a better deal for the Cherokee. There was little support in Congress for their position. In May 1838, only about 2,000 Cherokee had left their homes. General Winfield Scott was ordered to remove about 15,000 Cherokee who refused to move. Hundreds of Cherokee men, women, and children died of disease while imprisoned and waiting for removal. By the time the Cherokee finally reached the Indian Territory in the West, nearly one-third of the group had died.

President Jackson left office in 1837. His successor, Martin Van Buren, noted in his address to Congress in December 1838 that “the measures of the Removal have had the happiest effect . . . the Cherokees have emigrated (moved out) without apparent reluctance.” However, from the Cherokee point of view, the move was a disaster.

The Cherokee called the move to Indian Territory “Nuna-da-ut-sun’y” or “the trail where they cried.” Between the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Trail of Tears, more than 100,000 Native Americans were displaced from 200 million acres of land that had been theirs for hundreds of years.

The Lone Star Republic

In 1845, a journalist wrote that it was the “manifest destiny” of our country to “overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free descendants of our yearly multiplying millions.” **Manifest destiny** reflected the belief of some Americans that the United States had been “chosen” to control all the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

James K. Polk, born in Mecklenburg County in 1795, became the eleventh president of the United States in March 1845. His campaign promises included expansion of U.S. territory including Texas, Oregon, and California. During his time as president, Polk oversaw events that did, in fact, grow the territory of the country and encourage the belief in manifest destiny.

Below: The Republic of Texas or Lone Star Republic existed from 1836 to 1845, when Texas was annexed to the United States and became the 28th state in the Union. Some of its claimed territory became parts of other states.



Thousands of white settlers moving west chose Texas as their destination. Texas, however, was a territory of Spain until 1821 when Mexico, which included Texas, won its independence. Although Mexico was a republic and modeled somewhat on the style of government in the United States, there were differences. The Mexican government encouraged settlement, but immigrants were expected to become Mexican citizens. They were also expected to become a part of the Roman Catholic religion if they were not already. In addition, slavery was outlawed in Mexico. By 1834, “Anglos” outnumbered Spanish Mexicans four to one. The English-speaking settlers generally ignored Mexican laws and regarded themselves as “Texians” rather than Mexican subjects.

Antonio López de Santa Anna was commanding general and president of Mexico in 1833. He was determined to take control of the situation. A new Mexican constitution took away many of the special privileges of the Texians and made immigration to Texas illegal.

Furious over the changes, the Texians declared their independence. Santa Anna sent about 2,000 troops against the rebellious Texians. He quickly took control of the capital in San Antonio but was not able to capture the Alamo, an old Spanish mission where about 190 Texians were determined to make a stand.

After a siege of twelve days, Santa Anna’s troops stormed the fort. All the Texas settlers were killed including the legendary Jim Bowie (famous for the Bowie knife) and Davy Crockett. Four of the defenders were North Carolinians, most notably Sampson County native Micajah Autry, who wrote before the battle, “I go the whole hog in the cause of Texas.”

A few weeks later, Santa Anna ordered the execution of 350 other Texians held as prisoners of war. These two events infuriated and inspired the American immigrants. Within two months, Sam Houston led 800 men into battle against Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. With cries of “Remember the Alamo” ringing in the air, the Texians defeated Santa Anna’s army on April 21, 1836, and gained Texas’s independence from Mexico.

American westward expansion is idealized in Emanuel Leutze’s famous painting, *Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way*. Completed in 1862, this mural is displayed in the House of Representatives wing of the U.S. Capitol.



The people of Texas formed a new country, the Republic of Texas, also known as the Lone Star Republic. They wanted to become a part of the United States as quickly as possible. However, because slavery was allowed in Texas, statehood was delayed until 1845. North Carolinian James P. Henderson, originally from Lincolnnton, was chosen as the state's first governor. He had previously been the republic's ambassador to Great Britain.

DID YOU KNOW...

The invention of the telegraph in 1844 made the Mexican-American War the first war that the public could follow from day to day.

The Mexican-American War

After the annexation of Texas, Mexico cut all diplomatic ties with the United States. President Polk offered to buy California and New Mexico from Mexico and pay off Mexico's debts in exchange for establishing the border between the two countries at the Rio Grande River. Mexico responded by invading Texas. Two principal American armies advanced into Mexico, one from the Rio Grande, the other from the port of Veracruz on the eastern shore of Mexico. Eventually, after hard fighting, the Americans captured the capital, Mexico City, in September 1847.

Mexico was forced to surrender, and terms were negotiated in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The United States gained 500,000 square miles of territory (now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, most of New Mexico, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado). Mexico dropped its claims on Texas and set the border at the Rio Grande. Polk agreed to pay Mexico \$18.25 million.

In 1853, through the **Gadsden Purchase**, the United States negotiated the purchase of the southern part of New Mexico for \$10 million. The border of the southern continental United States you know today was now set.

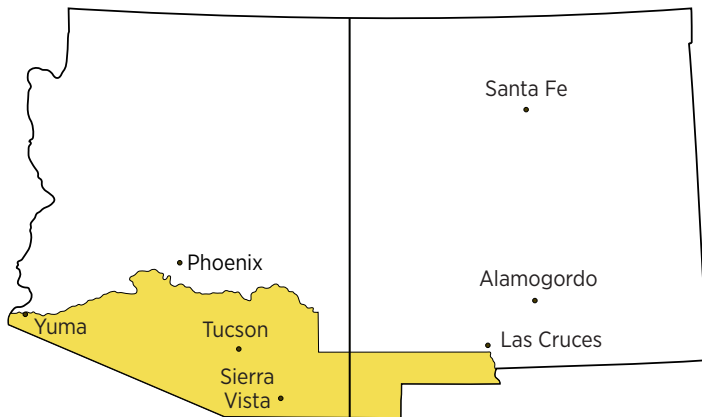
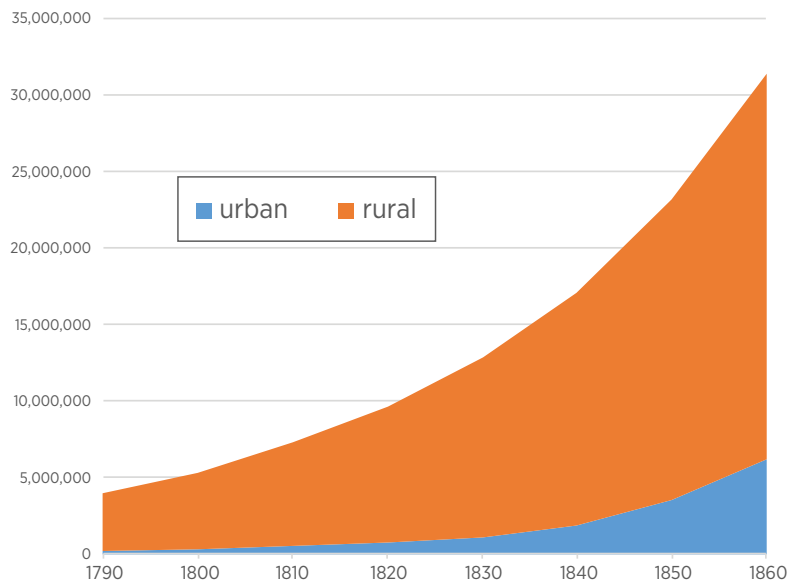


Figure 8.3
Population of the United States 1790-1860 (Urban & Rural)



Oregon and California

Another land area desired by the United States was the Oregon Territory. This region was west of the Rocky Mountains and north of California. Great Britain and the United States had an ongoing dispute over the location of the boundary between Canada (under British rule) and the United States. After many negotiations, war was averted and the boundary was set at the 49th parallel (49° north latitude). The Oregon Treaty of 1846 created a 2,175-mile-long border that split the Oregon Territory. The northern half went to the British in Canada; the southern portion went to the United States.

With this expansion of territory, America's borders extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Manifest destiny had been achieved. Thousands of pioneers headed west, moving into new territories. Their reasons for migrating west were many. Some wanted adventure while some looked for riches. Many wanted new lands for farming, mining, or trapping. Some, such as the Mormons, were escaping religious persecution. Others wanted to escape the overcrowded cities of the east coast.

The Oregon and Santa Fe Trails were the favored routes west. Settlers rode months in covered wagons across barren and hostile lands facing Indian attacks, severe weather, the harsh Rocky Mountains, and frontier hardships. Many died along the way and were buried along the trails. But none of the hardships stopped thousands from leaving their homes once they heard the word *gold*.

In 1848, John Marshall was building a lumber mill for John Sutter on California's American Fork River. He discovered something yellow and shiny in the river. Marshall had discovered gold. The two men tried to keep the discovery a secret, but by 1849 word got out, and a national stampede to the West began. The so-called Forty-Niners traveled in covered wagons, on horseback, and on foot to reach the gold fields. They came not just over land but also by ship around Cape Horn in South America and by mule train from Panama. Mining camps sprang up overnight as over 80,000 people rushed to California. Between 1848 and 1850, the population of California grew tenfold. Many who traveled in search of riches never found any gold, but they stayed to settle the frontier territory as trappers, ranchers, and farmers.

It's Your Turn

1. What are five reasons Americans migrated west in the first half of the 1800s?
2. Briefly compare and contrast United States acquisition of Louisiana with its acquisition of Texas.
3. How did events described in this section result in a decline of the Native American population?



DID YOU KNOW...

Burke County native George Yount was one of the first Americans to settle in California, in the early 1830s, a decade before the gold rush. Yountville, the center of the Napa Valley wine industry, is named for him.



Top: Covered wagons were called "prairie schooners" because their cloth tops resembled the sails of ships voyaging over the plains. **Above:** The covered wagon journey across the 2,000-mile-long Oregon Trail took 4 to 6 months. Travelers often joined up in wagon trains for protection and traveled about 12-15 miles a day. The California Trail was used by many thousands of "Forty-Niners" to reach the gold fields.

special Feature



Carolina and U.S. Progress

Advances in Transportation and Communication

With the rapid growth of the United States came the need to travel the vast country more quickly. More speed meant faster transportation of goods to market and more quickly realized profits. Troops needed to be moved more speedily in order to defend territory, and leaders needed to send messages reliably to all parts of the continent-spanning country. Mail service could not always be counted upon, and it was certainly slow. Newspapers delivered by mail rarely contained the latest news. These were huge needs. How would they be met? Inventors and innovators found solutions that moved the country forward with greater speed and reliability.

Travel by Road

If you were asked how our nineteenth-century ancestors could have solved these problems, you might suggest building roads. After all, twenty-first century North Carolina has a vast network of paved roads and bridges connecting the coast to the mountains. To build this excellent road system, we use bulldozers, computers, satellite imagery, asphalt, and concrete. None of these could be found in the early 1800s.

North Carolina's roads in the 1800s were usually made of dirt. Full of holes and rocks, they would have made carriage rides rough and wagon rides slow. Rain and snow turned the roads muddy. Wagons made ruts in the mud that later dried, creating an even rougher path. Roads were expensive, but slowly governments at every level created plans to build and maintain roads such as North Carolina's Buncombe Turnpike. Bridges were another matter. Many roads simply ran to a creek, and travelers were forced to ford (cross in a shallow place) the waterway. Bridges were, and are, very expensive to build and maintain. Governments were challenged to find ways to pay for them, however, because citizens demanded the ability to travel with greater speed and reliability.

Above and Below: When rain and snow turned the dirt roads muddy, wagons made ruts that later dried, creating even rougher roads.





Travel by Water

If possible, Americans shipped goods and traveled by water. Ships could cross the ocean, and flatboats could travel the rivers. Traders could build flatboats to ship goods downstream. When

they arrived at their destination, they could sell the goods and then sell the wood from the boat for lumber. The traders would then find their way back upstream and start the cycle again.

What made a huge difference in river travel was Robert Fulton's development of a working steamboat. In 1807, Fulton and Robert Livingston built a steamboat they called the *Clermont*, which carried passengers from New York City up the Hudson River to Albany, New York. The *Clermont* could make this 150-mile trip in "only" 32 hours. (That trip is three hours by car and about an hour by air today.) In 1811, the men tested travel on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in a ship called the *New Orleans*. In 1814, twenty steamboats had arrived in port at New Orleans. By 1834, that number had risen to 1,200 arrivals, suggesting how important the steamboat was to the growth

of the port of New Orleans and trade along the Mississippi and Ohio River network.

Another method of water travel was by canal. As mentioned in Chapter 7, canals could be expensive to build and maintain, but if successful, they could provide reliable transportation over long distances. Canal boats at first were drawn by animals such as mules or horses. The steam engine began to replace these animals to cut transport time.

Entrepreneurs invested in the construction of canals. They took the risk and planned to make money back by charging users a toll. Many states encouraged canal-building projects as a means of improving transportation of goods and people.



Top: The Erie Canal was the best known and most used of all the canals built during the antebellum period. This image is from the 1840s after the canal was widened. **Middle:** Settlers throughout the West used flatboats to take their produce to market on the tributaries of the Mississippi River. The boats floated on the surface like a raft and could be maneuvered over branches and rocks. **Bottom:** A 1909 replica of the *Clermont*, Robert Fulton's steamboat.



more

Travel by Rail

None of the methods of travel mentioned so far would have as great an impact as the invention of the railroad. The first railcars were pulled along tracks by horses. Peter Cooper examined the steam engines used in steamboats and added it to the railcars to make the first locomotive. His first attempt was the small *Tom Thumb*. In a challenge set to test the engine, Cooper's train lost a race to a train pulled by a horse.

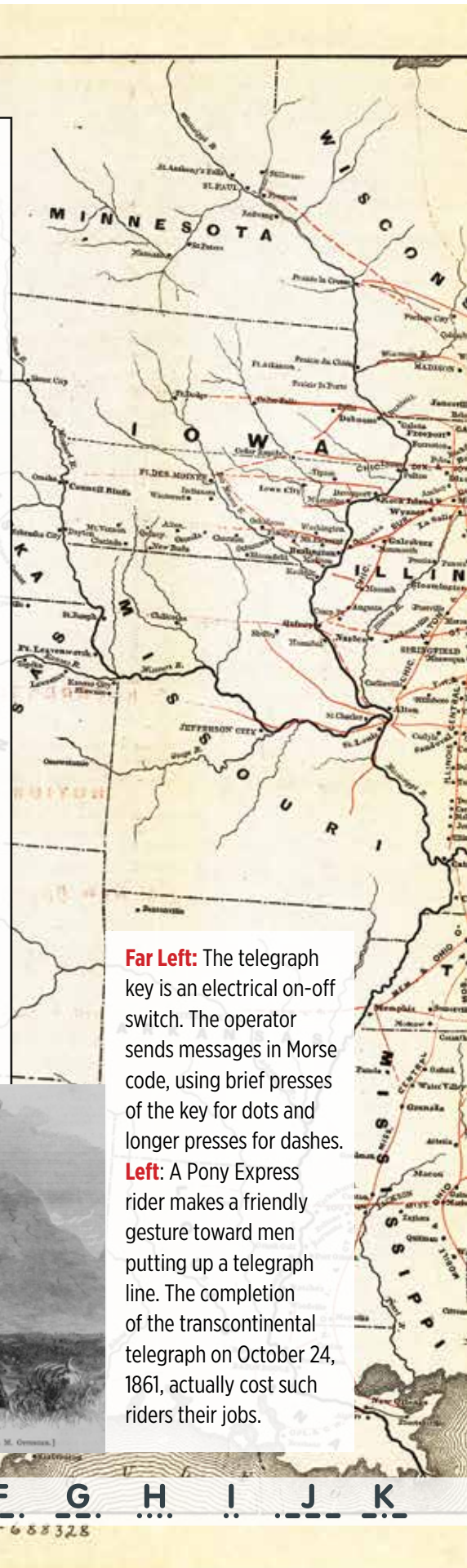
In the end, horses could not keep up with the power of steam engines. Cooper continued to innovate until he was able to build an engine that reliably defeated the poor horses that challenged it. Trains traveled up to thirty miles per hour, and within two decades tracks were crisscrossing the country.

Communication by Telegraph

The difficulties in getting information across the country were real. Think about the unfortunate soldiers who died at the Battle of New Orleans. The peace treaty ending the war had been signed three weeks earlier. But slow communication meant that the generals on both sides continued to fight.

In 1832, artist Samuel F. B. Morse was sailing home from studying art in Europe. He learned of a discovery that allowed electricity to be sent through a length of wire. His imaginative mind began to ponder ways that such a discovery might be put to use to communicate. Examining the experiments of others, and conducting experiments of his own, Morse was able to reliably send electrical signals in long and short bursts. He then created a pattern, the Morse code, to enable communication using the patterns.

Morse demonstrated his telegraph in Washington, DC, and Congress eventually approved \$30,000 in 1843 for him to string wire from the U.S. Capitol to Baltimore—a distance of 37 miles. On May 24, 1844, the first message on the line—"What hath God wrought?"—arrived seconds after it was sent. The same message could have taken six hours to arrive if delivered by a rider on horseback. Within fifteen years, there were more than 50,000 miles of telegraph lines connecting the country.

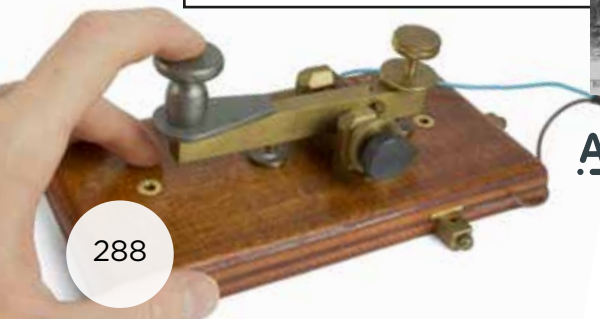


Far Left: The telegraph key is an electrical on-off switch. The operator sends messages in Morse code, using brief presses of the key for dots and longer presses for dashes.

Left: A Pony Express rider makes a friendly gesture toward men putting up a telegraph line. The completion of the transcontinental telegraph on October 24, 1861, actually cost such riders their jobs.



IRELAND PONY EXPRESS.—(Photographed by Nathan, Salt Lake City, with a Facsimile by George M. Goodwin.)



A **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G** **H** **I** **J** **K**

On this 1859 map of the eastern United States, continuous red lines represent completed railroads and dotted red lines represent projected railroads. The map shows that Chicago, Illinois, had become an important railroad hub for the country.

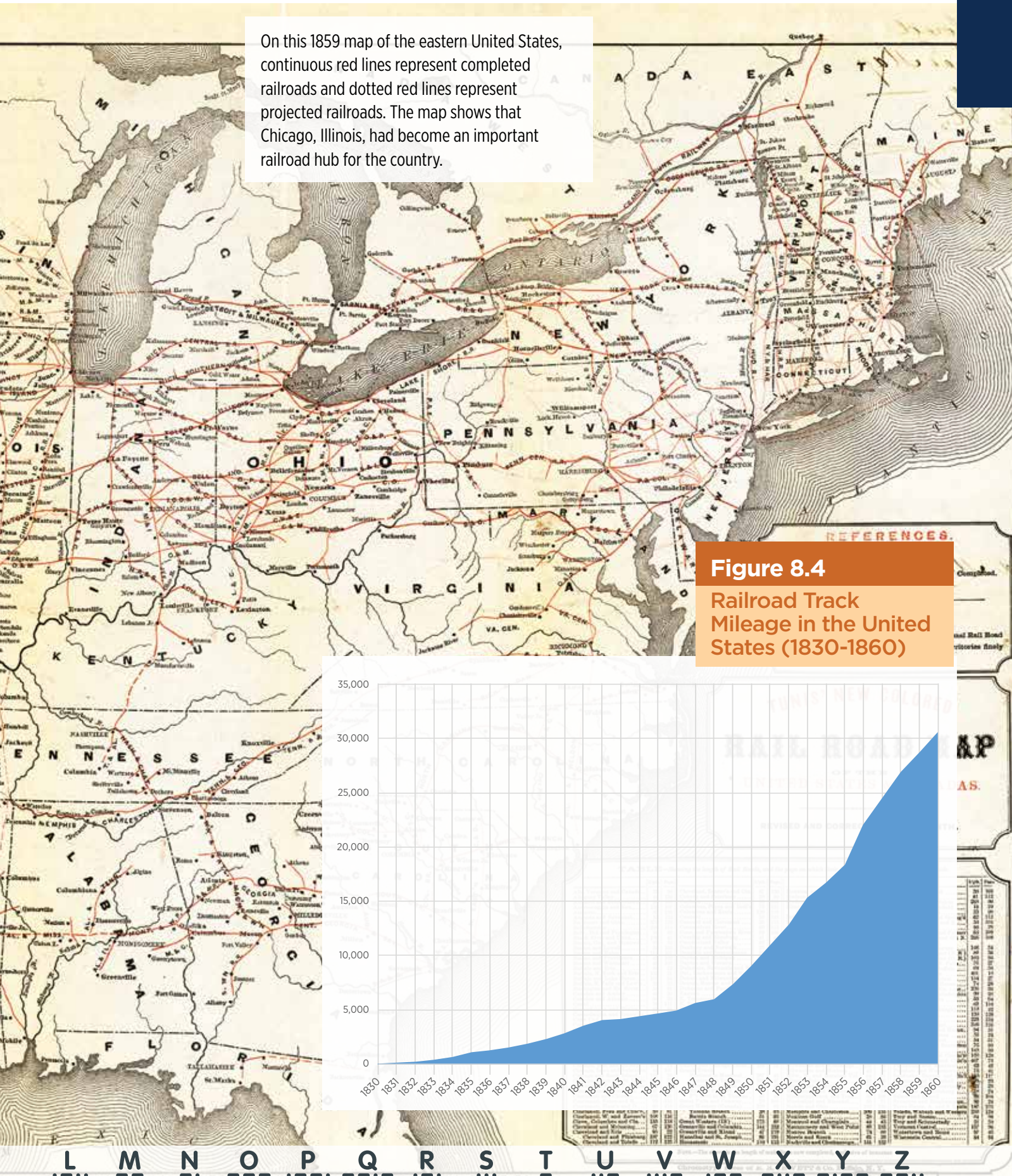
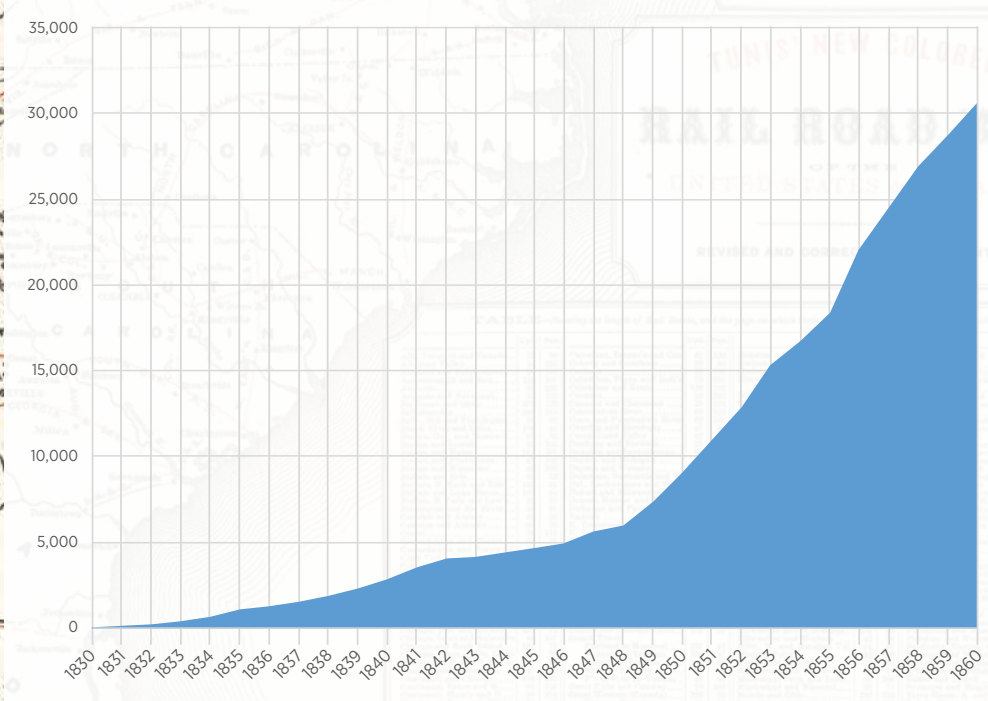


Figure 8.4
Railroad Track Mileage in the United States (1830-1860)



L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

62701.73 1859.78 KK 40
 SEP 28 1932
 Library of Congress

Section 2

Slavery Binds and Divides

As you read, look for



- ▶ how the invention of the cotton gin led to an increased demand for slaves in the South;
- ▶ growing support in the North for abolition;
- ▶ two compromises that delayed the breakup of the Union;
- ▶ a nullification crisis in South Carolina and a popular sovereignty fight in Kansas;
- ▶ terms: **abolition, Underground Railroad, Missouri Compromise, protective tariff, nullification, secede, free soil, Compromise of 1850, Kansas-Nebraska Act.**

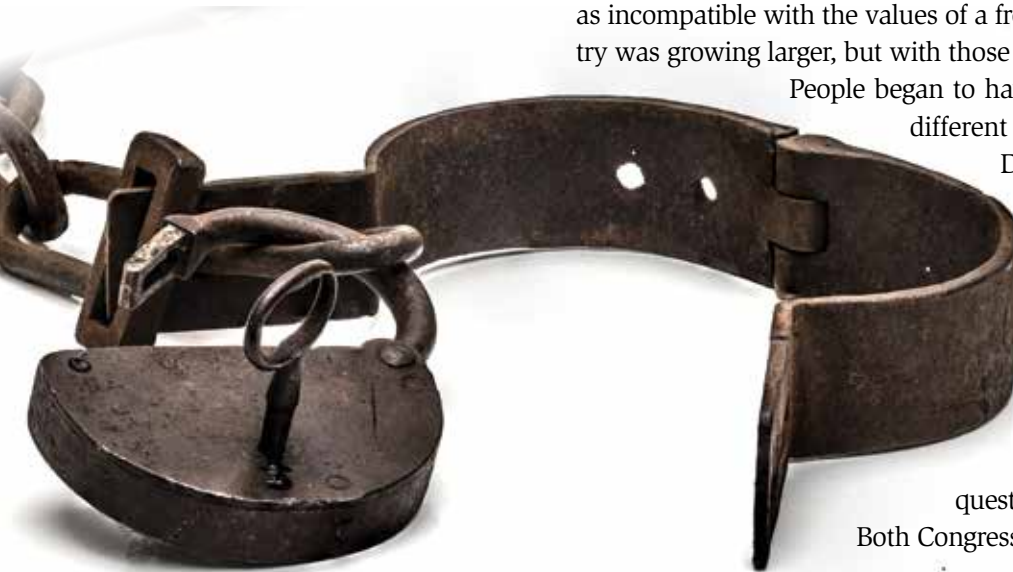
An essential part of the representative democracy of the United States is negotiation and compromise. Senators and representatives know that they will not always get everything they want when a law is being written or a budget considered. The Founding Fathers understood that elected officials would need to have ongoing discussions to reach agreements. Elected leaders would also have to understand that they would not always have their way. Instead, they would be challenged to find ways to settle disputes by giving up some parts of what they wanted in order to reach an agreement. This process is called compromise.

One issue requiring negotiation and compromise was slavery. The institution of slavery bound its victims, but the issue divided the free people in the country. An increasing number of Americans saw slavery as incompatible with the values of a free, democratic society. The country was growing larger, but with those great distances came differences.

People began to have their own concerns that were different from those of other Americans.

Differences in thinking in different areas of the nation created a feeling of sectionalism. People in a given region came to believe that their ideas and interests were better or more important than those of another area or region. As the country expanded westward, it meant the question of slavery had to be answered.

Both Congress and the courts tried.



Negotiation and compromise were demanded of national and state leaders as opposition to slavery grew. Antislavery campaigns had as their goal the elimination of slavery. Southerners whose wealth was tied to slavery could not imagine life without it. Also, if the slaves were freed, would they have voting rights? The loss of wealth and power was seen as a threat to many people in the South. There appeared to be little room for compromise, though some found it, for a while.

The Cotton Gin and the Expansion of Slavery

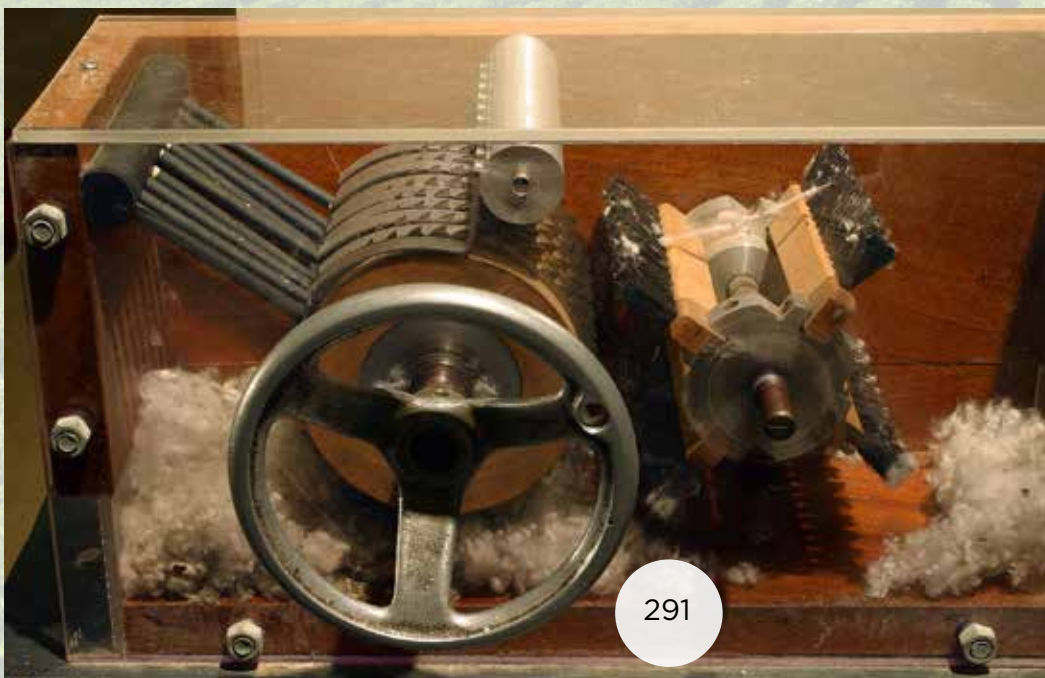
Slavery was on the decline in the late 1700s. States from Pennsylvania northward, where farms were generally smaller, abolished slavery early on. It was in the South, where large fields of crops might be grown, that slave labor had attraction.

By 1800, the economy of the South was *stagnant* (not growing) in terms of population growth and agriculture. Tobacco production had *depleted* (used up) the soil in Virginia and North Carolina. Rice could only be grown in Louisiana and along the coast in South Carolina and Georgia. Sea Island cotton could be grown profitably, but it required a climate and soil that only existed along the southeastern coast.

Before 1790, growing cotton on a large scale was not practical. The cotton used for clothing grows inside a pod, or boll, on a bush. The seeds inside the cotton boll had to be picked out by hand before the cotton could be spun into threads. Eli Whitney is given credit for figuring out a way to speed the process of removing seeds from ripe cotton bolls. He was visiting a plantation near Savannah, Georgia, when he learned of the challenge. He set about creating a machine, or cotton engine (shortened to “gin”), to do the work, which he patented in 1794. His successful cotton gin transformed cotton production in the South. Before the cotton gin, one man could clean seeds from only about one pound of cotton per day. With Whitney’s invention, a man could clean fifty pounds of cotton per day.



Above: Cotton grows inside a seed pod that is called a boll. **Below:** Eli Whitney’s cotton gin, which he patented in 1794, transformed cotton production in the South. Using this engine, or “gin,” one man could clean the seeds from fifty pounds of cotton a day.



Effects of Whitney's invention were profound. Southerners realized that much of the land in the region's interior could grow cotton as a cash crop that would create great profit. Labor was needed to plant and maintain the fields, and slaves were the chosen source of that labor.

At the same time cotton production was becoming practical, factories in Great Britain were becoming more efficient. New machines meant that workers could produce textile goods more quickly. If the factories were producing more, they would need more cotton. Whitney's invention was there to help. Removal of the Native Americans from southern states opened even more land for cotton production. There were no machines to do the work of planting, weeding, and picking the cotton, so vast numbers of enslaved people were needed to keep the cotton-based economy running.

By 1860, the Lower South had earned the nickname "Cotton Kingdom." Cotton accounted for about 50 percent of the exports from the United States, and most of the world's supply of cotton came from the region. In North Carolina, cotton was grown extensively on the Coastal Plain and in counties along the South Carolina border. The area along the border between Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties—where the Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Mills Mall are located today—was called "one of the finest districts for upland cotton" in the whole South.

Above: An African American teamster transports a load of twenty-eight bales of cotton to market. Each bale of cotton weighs approximately five hundred pounds. **Below:** An engraving from *Harper's Weekly* called "The First Cotton Gin" actually depicts a roller gin, an earlier and less effective machine for separating seeds from the cotton fiber.



Growing Differences on the Question of Slavery

In northern states, where cotton was not raised, many people were opposed to slavery. These sentiments were particularly strong among the descendants of the Puritans who were the first settlers to New England. Puritanism had emphasized the idea that, if there was something “sinful” going on, the whole community—and by definition the nation—could be punished. One result of this religious idea was an increased support for **abolition** (the movement to do away with slavery) when so many southerners migrated west and took slaves with them. Many northern whites, a few southern whites, and free blacks worked to get rid of slavery. These abolitionists made speeches, wrote books and articles, and offered their homes as safe houses for runaway slaves.

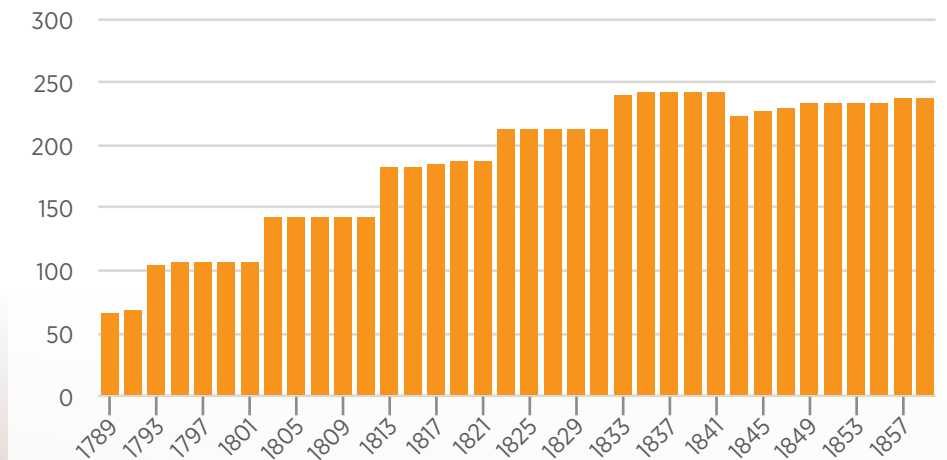


Figure 8.5

Total Number of Representatives in Congress (1789-1858)

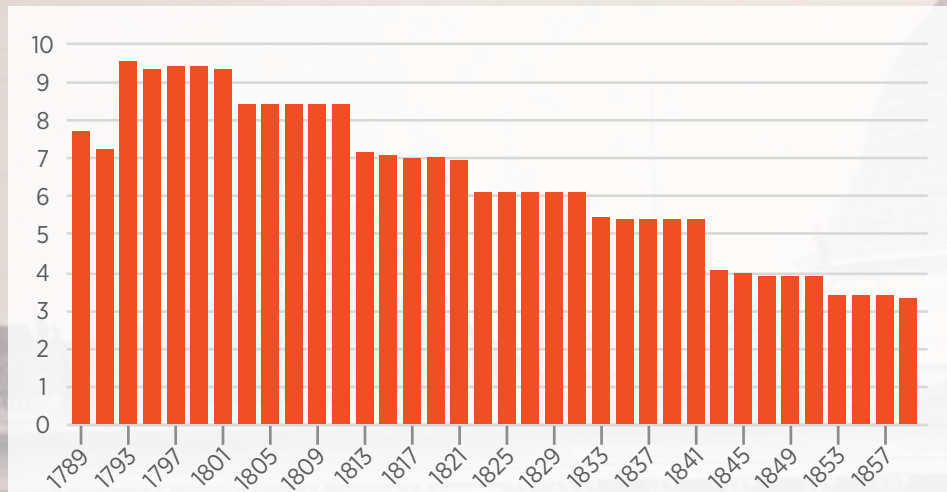


Figure 8.6

Percentage of Representatives from North Carolina in Congress (1789-1858)

This picture of the United States Capitol in 1846 is the earliest-known daguerreotype (photographic image) of the building. The low copper-covered dome would be replaced in the 1860s by the dome we know today.

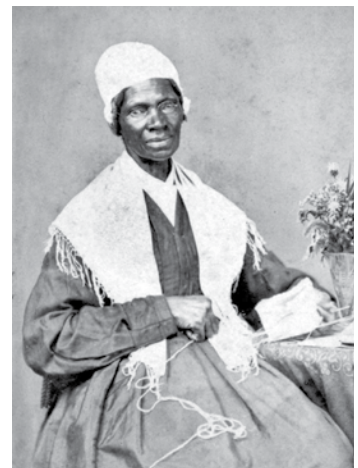
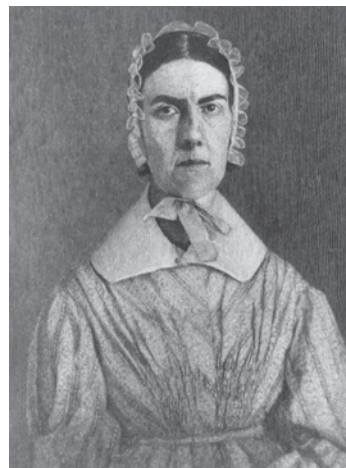
DID YOU KNOW...

Eli Whitney advanced the concept of the mass production of interchangeable parts. In 1801, he fulfilled a government contract for 10,000 muskets. Earlier, a complete musket would have been made by one person. Whitney designed machine tools that allowed an unskilled workman to make one part that would fit any musket of that design.

In 1831, the abolition movement found a voice and great organizer when William Lloyd Garrison founded his newspaper, *The Liberator*. Printed in Boston, the paper was dedicated to exposing the horrors of slavery and calling for it to end. Garrison hoped to persuade people that slavery was morally wrong. Within two years, he and others had founded the American Anti-Slavery Society. While most northerners initially opposed these efforts and simply wanted to leave the issue to the South, the movement grew stronger and stronger over the next years. Early efforts mainly involved what was called “moral persuasion.” Some abolitionists also participated in the informal system of routes and safe houses that helped slaves, mainly from the border states, escape to the North. In 1831, this became known as the **Underground Railroad**. By 1840, abolitionism was becoming a political issue, and antislavery northerners founded the Liberty Party in 1840.

The work of other abolitionists increased calls for an end to slavery. Sojourner Truth, a former slave, became a prominent abolitionist but also an advocate for women’s rights. Her famous speech to the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention in 1851 excited listeners. Among her views was the idea that women, white and black, should have the same voting rights as men. Other abolitionists—including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Grimké sisters (Sarah Moore and Angelina Emily)—expanded civil rights work to include rights for women as well as slaves.

Southern slave owners and some other white southerners felt threatened by the antislavery movement. They saw slaves as necessary to their economic system. As northerners attacked the system, white southerners became more defensive of it. They argued that African Americans were racially inferior and were better off in slavery. They even said that slavery had good points because slaves were taken care of and were taught Christianity. For the next twenty years, northern attacks on the morality of slavery increased southern attempts to protect it.



Women played a key role in the abolitionist movement in the antebellum era. Elizabeth Cady Stanton (seated) and Susan B. Anthony, at left, were also leaders of the movement for women’s rights. The sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké, center, were among the few southerners to openly work for the end of slavery. Sojourner Truth, at right, was born a slave in the North, escaped, and worked for the rest of her life for both the abolitionist and women’s rights causes.

As the United States grew economically in the 1800s, different sections of the country continued to develop in different ways. In Upper South states such as Virginia and Kentucky, tobacco was still a major crop. After Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, the Lower South states from South Carolina all the way across to eastern Texas had become cotton producers. Rice was still grown in Louisiana, coastal Georgia, and the Carolinas. Louisiana also produced some sugar from sugarcane. All of these cash crops required many workers, so slavery grew in all those areas. Farming was also important in states of the Upper Midwest where the major crops were grains such as wheat. The invention in the 1830s of a better plow by John Deere and of a machine to *reap* (harvest) wheat by Cyrus McCormick made it possible for the average farmer to grow much more wheat without extra workers. So even though both the South and this western area of the North based their economies on farming, northern farmers did not use slaves.

Another difference between the sections of the country was that the North had begun to industrialize more than the South. By the 1800s, New Englanders were taking advantage of swift-flowing rivers to power industry. They built factories that manufactured various goods including guns, shoes, and, most importantly, cloth. The textile mills of the New England states used cotton grown in the southern states to manufacture cloth. The concentration of factories along the mid-Atlantic Coast led to the growth of towns and cities, so the Northeast became increasingly urban (city-centered), while the South stayed mainly rural (farm-centered).

These sectional differences led to differences in the kinds of laws the areas were willing to support. From the 1820s to the end of America's war with Mexico in 1848, many events increased sectionalism in the United States.

Below: This image depicts a harvesting reaper from 1850-1860.

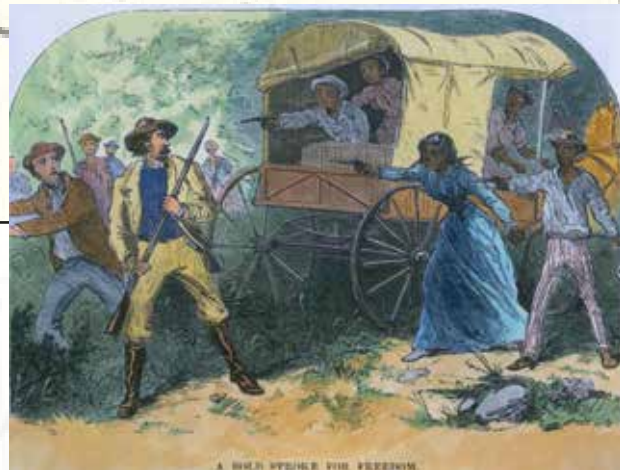


Carolina People North Carolinians and the Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad is one of the more inspiring stories in American history. To escape from slavery required courage and endurance on the part of African Americans. To help slaves find their way to freedom required whites to risk their property, reputation, and sometimes even their own freedom. A few North Carolinians were important in these efforts. Quakers on the northern edge of the Uwharrie Mountains decided slavery was wrong and followed their consciences by participating in efforts to free slaves. They helped create and sustain “the underground road” (the name for the Underground Railroad before railroads were invented in the 1830s).

After the American Revolution, Quakers across America began to live up to the ideal of liberty and freedom and chose to stop owning slaves. North Carolina Quakers were no different. By 1809 they had begun to sell their slaves to their Yearly Meeting (their church organization), and it began to *manumit* (release from slavery) them to Haiti, Liberia, and the Northwest Territory, where slavery was forbidden. After the War of 1812, many of the same Quakers decided to move to the Northwest to get away from the slave system, and they established some of the first “stations” along the “road” where escapees could come to hide and be helped.

Chief among these activists were members of the Coffin family, who belonged to the New Garden Meeting near Guilford Courthouse. They were noted for preaching what they believed and practicing what they preached. (Elizabeth Coffin even spoke out in the meeting house. She may have been the first female North Carolinian ever to preach in church.) Elisha, Levi, and Vestal Coffin had begun to help runaway slaves early in the 1800s. They accompanied black men along “the Kanawha Road”—which went through what is today West Virginia—and stayed with them until they had crossed the Ohio River. More than once, they had to hide from “the human bloodhounds”—their term for slave catchers—who were chasing them.



African Americans in wagon and on foot, escaping from slavery.

Levi Coffin became the best known of the antislave activists. Levi often told people how he saw his first *coffle* (people chained together) of slaves at the age of seven. They had been separated from their families in Virginia and were being taken “away from their families” to Alabama to grow cotton. While he was a teen, he watched in horror as a slave with a rope around his neck was forced to run behind the wagon of his master, with the horses at full gallop. The teenager became so bold in his opposition to slavery that he even convinced his neighbor, Dr. David Caldwell, founder of the famous Log College, not to punish a runaway.

In 1824 Coffin married Catherine White, and in 1826 they moved to Indiana. The Coffins opened a store at Newport, near the Ohio line. Dozens of Uwharrie families, both white and black, had settled in the area, and already they were helping slaves escape to Canada, where they would be safe. The Coffins devoted the rest of their lives to the cause. They spent most of the profits from their store on supplies, clothing, and medicine for the escapees. They went to bed every night knowing that “a gentle rap on the door” meant they had company to keep. “Often parties of ten to fifteen” at a time were in their house. If slave catchers pounded on the door to be let in—they never seemed to get the idea

of “gentle” rapping—Coffin demanded they go twenty miles away and get a proper search warrant. Meanwhile, the slaves would leave.

The Coffins used false bottoms in their wagons to hide slaves as they took them to the next station north. When they built a new house, they had hiding places built into the walls of some of the rooms. Over the course of twenty years, they helped more than two thousand people escape slavery. They never asked anyone his or her name to avoid being forced to identify any person who was arrested and brought to court.

In 1847 the Coffins moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they ran a “free labor” store, which sold nothing that had been made by slaves. Over time, Levi became known as the “president of the Underground Railroad,” so central was he to the effort. Some of his experiences were put into the famous novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, a book that Abraham Lincoln said helped cause the Civil War. In 1863, after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect, Coffin and other leading abolitionists were

honored at a ceremony at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts—the place where the Pilgrims had started the pursuit of American freedom back in 1620.



Top: Levi Coffin. **Above:** The Coffin family belonged to the New Garden Meeting near Guilford Courthouse. **Left:** Harriet Tubman, a tireless “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, made as many as 19 trips into the South and escorted more than 300 slaves to freedom over the course of a decade, never losing a passenger. In 2016, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that this “Moses of Her People” will be pictured on the front of the \$20 bill, with Andrew Jackson moving to the back. The new bill should enter circulation after 2020.

The Missouri Compromise

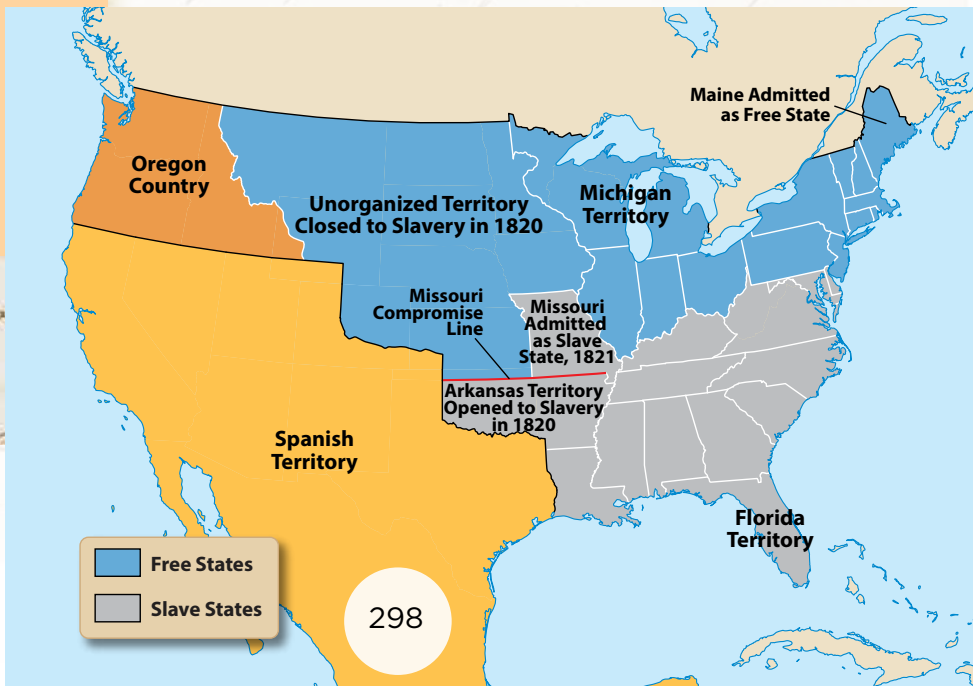
As antislavery sentiment increased, southerners wanted to ensure that Congress could not pass laws to abolish slavery. One way to do that was to make sure that there were equal numbers of free and slave-holding states. By this method, a balance could be kept in the U.S. Senate that would ensure that no law to abolish slavery could be passed.

Missouri was part of the Louisiana Purchase territory, and no laws had been passed about whether slavery would be allowed in states made from the territory. In fact, when Louisiana became a state in 1812, it allowed slavery. In 1819, Missouri requested statehood. At that time, there were eleven slave states (those that allowed slavery) and eleven free states (those that no longer allowed slavery or were in the process of abolishing it). This meant that the U.S. Senate had an equal number of senators from slave states and from free states. In the U.S. House of Representatives, the free states had more members because they had a greater population than the slave states. Missouri planned to allow slavery. This would upset the balance in the Senate in favor of slave states. A congressman from the free state of Illinois (which was next to Missouri) wanted to change the Missouri statehood law to require Missouri to do away with slavery. This caused a huge debate. Southern states were outraged, while northern states supported the idea.

Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky offered a compromise. Missouri would be allowed to join the Union as a slave state. Maine, which was a part of Massachusetts at that time, would be divided from Massachusetts and admitted as a free state. This plan would maintain the balance between slave and free states in the U.S. Senate. To prevent further arguments, a line was drawn westward across the rest of the Louisiana Purchase territory even with Missouri's southern border (36°30' north latitude). North of the line would be free territory; slavery would be allowed south of the line. Even though that meant there was more free territory, most of it was thinly populated plains. That dry land was not good for crops and not attractive to settlers. Although both sides accepted this **Missouri Compromise** in 1820, the event showed that the question of slavery and its expansion into new areas was going to be an issue that divided people.

Map 8.2 The Missouri Compromise

Name the 12 slave states after the admission of Missouri to the Union.



Background: The Missouri Compromise.

History by the Highway

Thomas Hart Benton

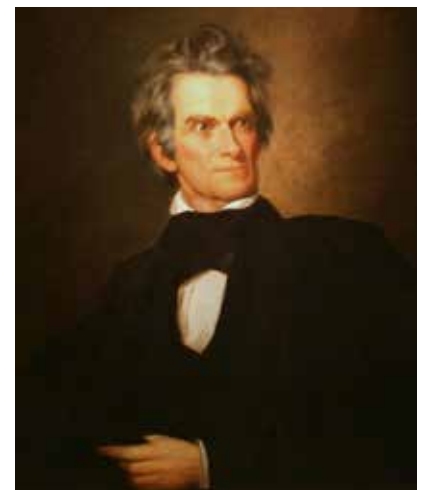
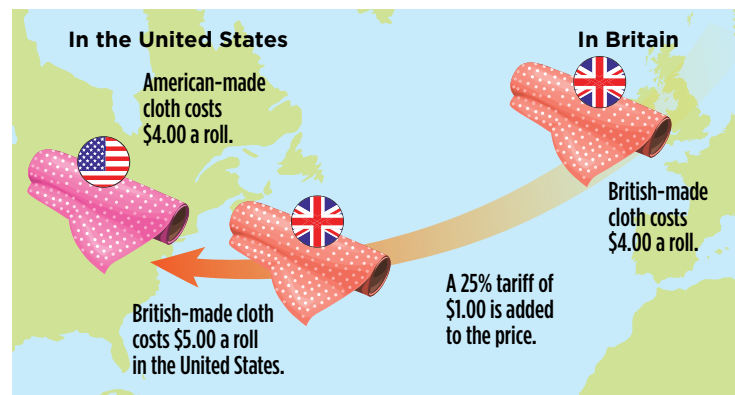
Thomas Hart Benton, born at Hart's Mill, just to the west of Hillsborough, moved to Tennessee as a young adult. He was an aide to General Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812. Benton later moved to Missouri and became its United States senator when Missouri became a state. He served in the Senate longer than any American before the Civil War. Benton was a loyal Jacksonian, a believer in manifest destiny, and a supporter of "tight money," the idea that most trade should be conducted in coin instead of paper money. Later in his life he became a critic of the idea of slavery, which angered many southerners.



The Nullification Crisis

The first **protective tariff** was passed by Congress in 1816. The tariff added a tax to manufactured goods imported from other countries. The idea was that this would encourage Americans to buy goods made in the United States, which did not have the tax and were therefore less expensive. The tariff had wide support from the public who wanted to encourage the establishment of manufacturing in America.

The 1816 tariff had passed with southern support. Southerners thought it would be temporary, lasting until American manufacturers became successful enough to compete without it. When an even higher tariff passed Congress in 1828, however, many in the South objected. With little manufacturing in their area, southerners increasingly saw the protective tariff as a tax that helped northerners. Vice President John C. Calhoun, who had supported the 1816 tariff, secretly wrote a pamphlet against the 1828 tariff. Calhoun, a South Carolinian, argued that a state had the right to void a law that it thought unconstitutional. This idea of voiding and not following national laws within a state is known as **nullification**. The concept of nullification became part of the states' rights argument—the belief that all powers not specifically given to the national government in the U.S. Constitution or specifically denied to the states should remain with the states. Calhoun thought a state had a right to put itself between the national government and the people. A law could be nullified only in a special state convention called for that purpose, not by the state legislature. By Calhoun's thinking, the law would remain *void* (not valid or legally binding) unless the national government passed a constitutional amendment giving it the specific power to make such a law. If the state was still opposed, he argued that the state had the right to **secede**, or withdraw, from the United States.



Above: John C. Calhoun supported states' rights and advocated for nullification, through which states could declare null and void any federal laws that they viewed as unconstitutional.

In 1829, John C. Calhoun, who had served as vice president under President John Quincy Adams, was reelected vice president in President Andrew Jackson's administration. When another tariff was passed in 1832, an angry Calhoun resigned and went home to South Carolina to fight the tariff. He considered that a tax of over 60 percent was too high. Southerners were especially concerned because, if the British sold fewer goods to the United States, they would have less money to pay for cotton. The South Carolina legislature called a convention that nullified the tariff. South Carolina planned to refuse to collect the taxes on goods coming into its port of Charleston. As president, Andrew Jackson had to enforce the national law, so he prepared to do that even if it meant having to use federal troops. South Carolina threatened to secede if troops were used. This was a real crisis, and other southern states discussed what to do. South Carolina hoped that other states might also nullify the tariff. North Carolina did not. Most state leaders were highly critical of South Carolina's actions; they worried that they might be pulled into war defending themselves.

DID YOU KNOW...

John C. Calhoun received his early education under Isaac Waddell, who had trained to be a teacher with the Reverend James Hall of Iredell County.

Below: A critic of the reformers who advocated Free Soil ideas in 1850 likened them to wizards about to brew up changes that would be detrimental to the nation. He even suggested that one of their "ingredients" was treason.

In 1833, Henry Clay offered another compromise, and South Carolina agreed to follow the national law. The plan was for the tariff to be gradually lowered to about 20 percent over the next ten years. This entire incident is known as the nullification crisis.

This stance for states' rights in South Carolina had an even deeper issue than the tariff—the question of slavery. Slaves made up over 50 percent of that state's population, and South Carolina's political leaders did not want the national government to have the power to pass a law that would limit or abolish slavery. Great Britain was planning to pass a law ending slavery in all its territories. (It passed in 1833.) South Carolinians were afraid that Congress might do the same in the United States.

The Slavery Problem Worsens

By the late 1840s, the antislavery movement in the North had become stronger. Even northerners who believed that slavery could not be interfered with where it already existed also believed that the national government had the right to keep it from spreading into new territories.

This idea was known as **free soil**. In the election of 1848, the antislavery Liberty Party supporters joined with free soil supporters to form the Free Soil Party. The Democratic Party responded by defining the democratic ideal of popular sovereignty to suit their cause. They thought that people in a new territory should be allowed to decide an issue—such as whether to allow slavery—for themselves. From the election of 1848 until the Civil War broke out, slavery and the question of its expansion continued to be a major political issue.



The Compromise of 1850

California voters had ratified (approved) a state constitution by November 1849 and requested statehood as a free state. Southern slave owners immediately opposed that, even though Californians had used popular sovereignty, deciding for themselves that they did not want slavery. California’s admission as a free state would change the balance of power between free and slave states in the Senate. Debates over the issue, which lasted for eight months, were heated. Some southerners predicted that, if a balance of power was not guaranteed, a war between North and South would come. The two major national political parties at the time—the Democrats and the Whigs—found themselves being torn apart on sectional lines. Leaders trying to hold their parties and the country together tried to find another compromise. In the end, five laws passed Congress in a deal known as the **Compromise of 1850**. Supporters in the North and South saw this compromise as saving the country from breaking up. They hoped it would settle things as the Missouri Compromise had done.

Benefits for the North	Benefits for the South
California came into the Union as a free state.	The territories of New Mexico and Utah would determine whether they wanted to be slave or free.
Slave trading was ended in the District of Columbia.	Residents of the District of Columbia could keep the slaves they already had.
Texas gave up its idea of annexing New Mexico, thus taking that territory away from a slave state.	Congress would pass a law (the Fugitive Slave Act) requiring law enforcement to capture and return runaway slaves to their owners.

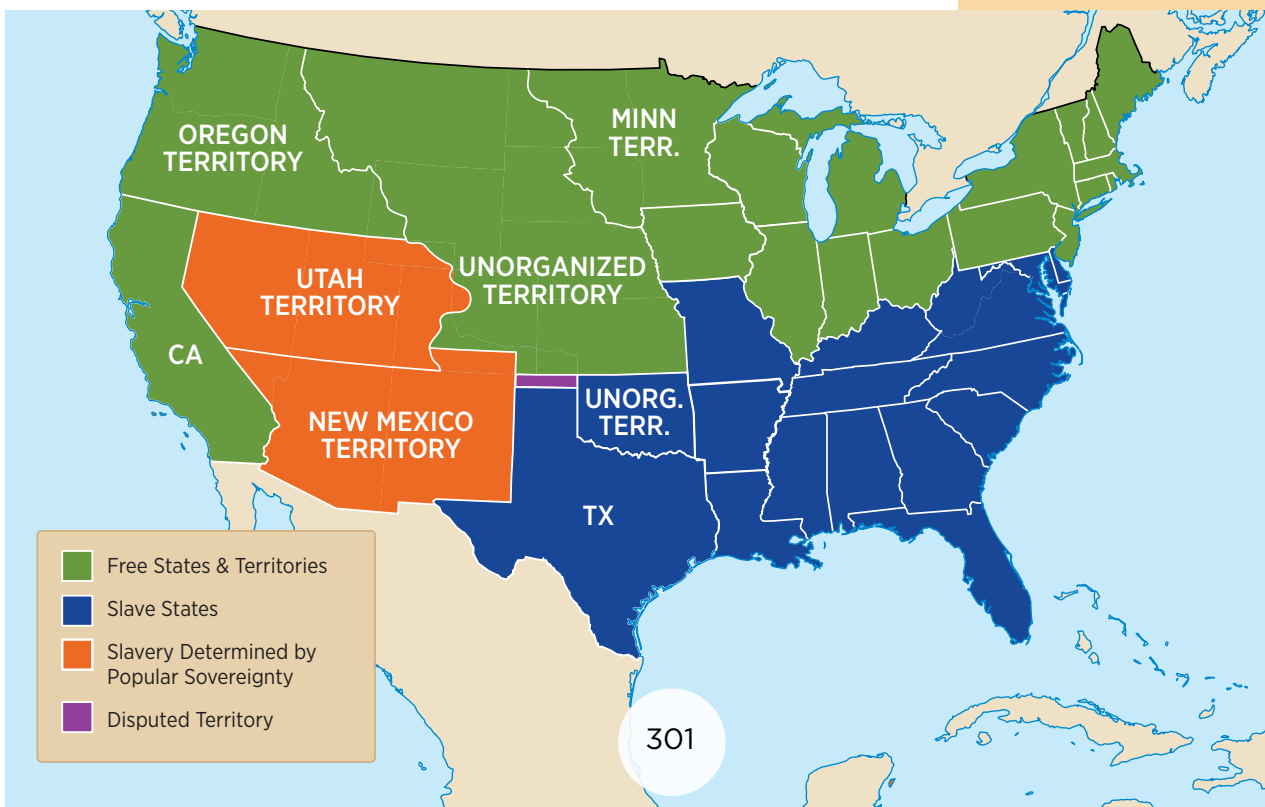
Figure 8.7

The Compromise of 1850

Map 8.3

The Compromise of 1850

Map Skill: Name the 16 free states after the Compromise of 1850.



The compromise was accepted, even though many in the North and South did not like it. In the North, the sight of runaway slaves, including some who had been in the North for a long time, being captured and taken away in *shackles* (bands placed around wrists or ankles and connected by a chain) led many northerners to resist the fugitive slave law. Some began to help slaves escape from those who captured them. In reaction to the compromise, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a novel that showed the horrors of slavery through the story of the slaves Uncle Tom, Eliza, and Eliza's young child. When the book was published in 1852, it sold 300,000 copies and stirred northerners' antislavery feelings. Meanwhile, leaders in the South resented these attacks on slavery and became even more suspicious of the North.

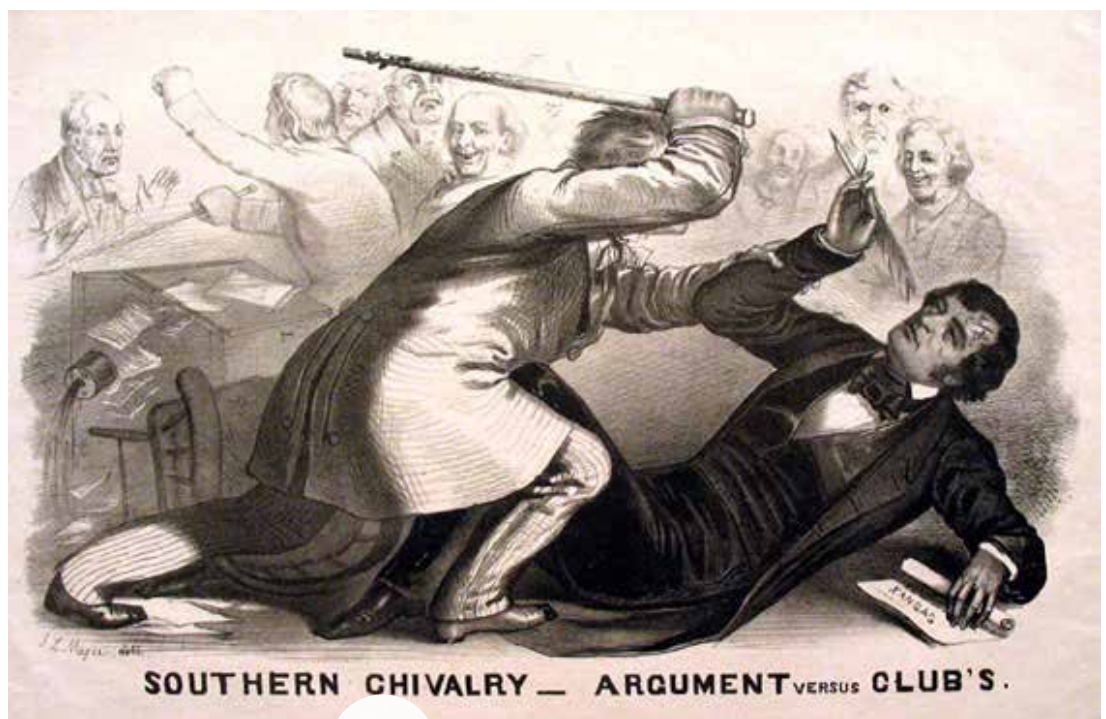
DID YOU KNOW...

Under the 1850 fugitive slave law, fugitives (runaways) could not testify on their own behalf and were not permitted a jury trial. Penalties were imposed on people who helped slaves to escape and on federal marshals who refused to enforce the law or from whom a runaway escaped.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act

Back in 1820, southerners had supported the Missouri Compromise, which allowed slavery in the Louisiana Purchase territory south of Missouri's southern border. Since that time, Iowa had come into the Union as the only free state from the Louisiana Purchase territory. Even though the area north of the Missouri Compromise line was mainly plains, some northerners wanted it opened for settlement. Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas wanted to run a transcontinental railroad through the area, with its eastern end in Chicago. In 1854, Douglas introduced legislation to organize this area into two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska. To get southern support, he included a clause stating that the Compromise of 1850 had made popular sovereignty available to the territories. This changed the prohibition of slavery set out in the Missouri Compromise. Because Kansas was next door to Missouri, it might possibly become a slave state, although Douglas personally believed that the land was not good for plantations and Kansas would probably become a free state.

Right: South Carolina Congressman Preston Brooks nearly killed Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner on the Senate floor with a heavy cane after Sumner's speech called "The Crime against Kansas." The event electrified the nation, brought violence to the floor of the Senate, and deepened the North-South split.



When the **Kansas-Nebraska Act** passed, many northern free soilers believed that the national government had come under the control of some sort of “slave power.” Every northern Whig congressman had voted against it, as had every northern Whig in the Senate. The Kansas-Nebraska Act killed the Whig Party in the country. Northern Whigs did not want to be in the same party with southern Whigs. In the elections in the fall of 1854, old northern Whigs ran under various names. In the end, they and free soilers joined to form a new party—the Republican Party. The new party believed that the national government had the right to limit slavery to the areas where it already existed and to ban it in new territories.

Kansas was the ground on which the increasing differences between the North and South became violent. Those who lived there were to decide if it would become a slave state or a free state. Thousands of settlers moved into Kansas so they could vote. Antislavery supporters in New England raised money to send antislavery voters to Kansas. Proslavery Missourians, some of whom never actually lived in Kansas, crossed into Kansas to vote to support slavery. The result was a territorial legislature that had more proslavery members; it voted to allow slavery.

Antislavery voters complained about voting fraud. By January 1856, two governments were set up in Kansas, one proslavery and the other antislavery. Each claimed to be the true government. By the summer of 1856, the dispute had gone beyond the legislature into the countryside. Proslavery supporters attacked the free soil town of Lawrence, burning down buildings and looting. After hearing about Lawrence, white abolitionist John Brown and his followers vowed revenge. They murdered five proslavery Kansans who were unarmed. Proslavery Kansans retaliated, and Kansas soon became “Bleeding Kansas.”

The Republicans in 1856 ran on the free soil platform of not allowing slavery to expand into new territory, while the Democrats supported popular sovereignty. For its first national election, the Republicans made a good showing, but Democrat James Buchanan won the presidency.



Missourians who crossed into Kansas solely to support the proslavery movement were called “border ruffians.” Abolitionists who migrated from the East to help make Kansas a free state were called “jayhawkers.” Today, native-born Kansans—or students, alumni, or fans of the University of Kansas—are nicknamed “Jayhawks.”

Left: This design by English potter Josiah Wedgwood depicting a kneeling slave and the motto “Am I Not a Man and a Brother?” was reproduced on pottery and medallions by the British antislavery movement as early as 1787. In the United States, it illustrated a broadside (a type of poster) publication of John Greenleaf Whittier’s antislavery poem, “Our Countrymen in Chains.”



Above: This portrait of Dred Scott was painted from the only known photograph of Scott. **Below:** This John Curry mural in the rotunda of the Kansas State Capitol depicts John Brown as a fierce, larger-than-life figure holding both a rifle and a Bible, as a tornado and a prairie fire threaten the land. The title, *Tragic Prelude*, indicates that Brown's antislavery confrontations in Kansas and later in Harpers Ferry were forerunners of the Civil War to come.

The Dred Scott Case

Two days after President Buchanan was sworn in, the U.S. Supreme Court tried to end the arguments over slavery through a decision in the case of Dred Scott and his family. Although he had been a slave his entire life, Dred Scott had traveled and lived with his owner, an army doctor, in Illinois (a free state) and Wisconsin (a free territory). His daughter had been born in Wisconsin. In 1846, Scott had begun the court suit for his and his family's freedom because they had lived in territory that did not allow slavery. Ten years later, in 1857, the case reached the Supreme Court. The Court ruled that blacks, free or slave, were not citizens, which meant they did not have the right to sue. The Court went on to argue that slaves were property. Being in free territory did not change that. In other words, slaves could be taken to free territories by their owners and would remain slaves. Finally, the Court ruled that Congress had never had the right to forbid slavery in territories. It was a victory for the southern position, but angry northerners were not ready to give up.

John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry

One northerner who had not given up was John Brown of "Bleeding Kansas." Brown had the idea that southern slaves needed help to liberate themselves. He came up with the idea of raiding the U.S. government's *arsenal* (arms storehouse) at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia). He planned to take guns and ammunition, arm the slaves, and start a slave revolt. Eight of his men, including two sons, were killed, and Brown himself was captured. Two of the raiders were free people of color from North Carolina, Lewis Leary of Fayetteville and John A. Copeland Jr. of Raleigh. Leary died in the fight. Brown was quickly convicted of murder, treason, and trying to start a rebellion. He was hanged, as was Copeland.



Although many northerners opposed Brown's violence, some antislavery northerners saw him as a *martyr* (a person killed because of their beliefs). In the South, Brown's raid alarmed white southerners, whose greatest fear was a slave revolt. They were also surprised by northerners' sadness over Brown's execution. They came to believe that northerners supported the use of force against them, and that they would have to protect themselves.

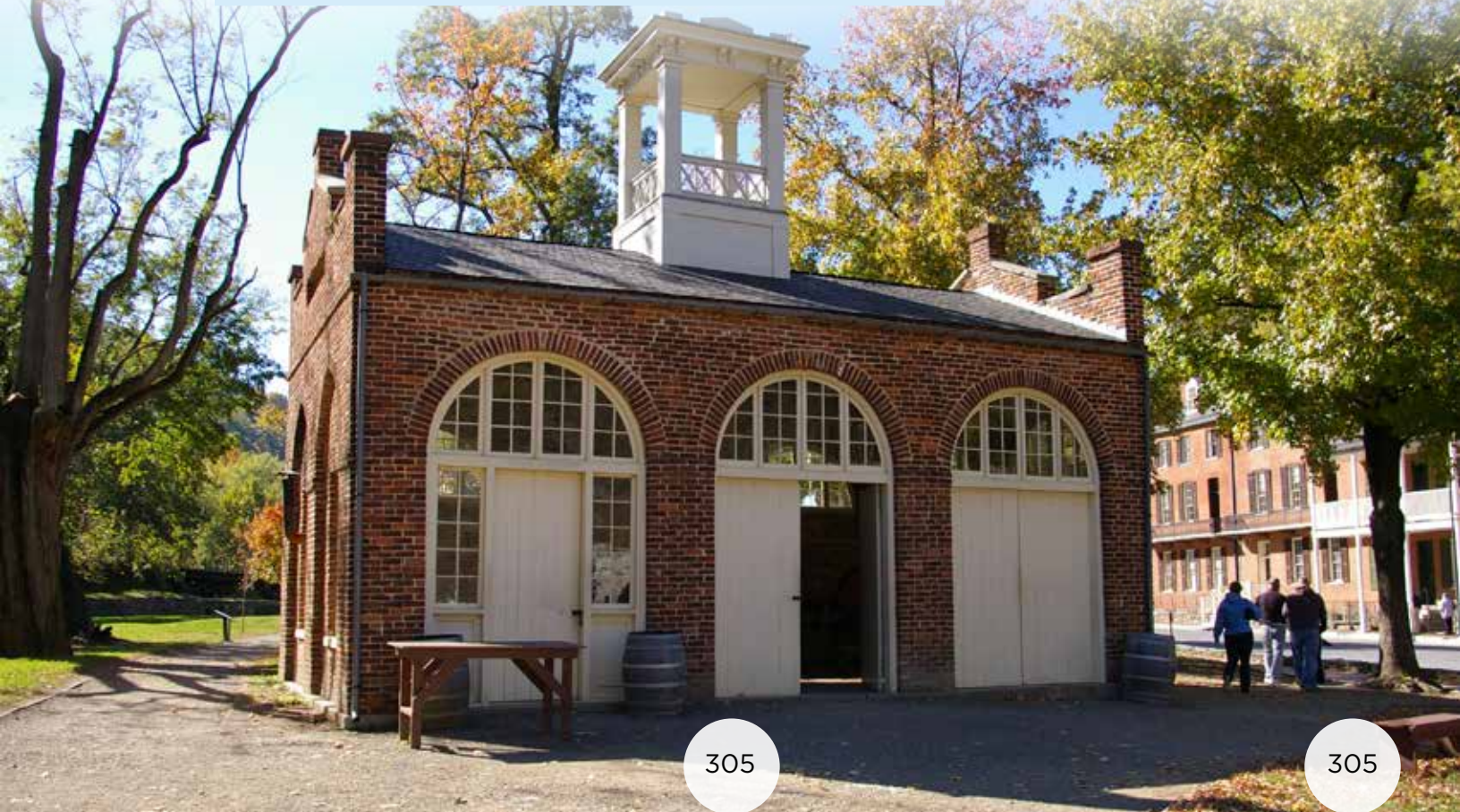
There was no single event that led to the sectionalism seen in the antebellum United States. The differences grew into distrust among leaders in the United States government as well as the people across the country. Unfortunately, the groundwork was laid for distrust to evolve into large-scale fear, anger, and hatred. Eventually negotiation and compromise failed to provide a peaceful solution. The passion of emotion found in sectionalism propelled the country into its bloodiest war.



It's Your Turn

1. How did abolitionists influence social change in the United States?
2. How did the Missouri Compromise keep the balance between slave and free states?
3. How did negotiation and compromise allow states to be added to the United States during the antebellum era?
4. How do the *Dred Scott* case, John Brown's raid, and "Bleeding Kansas" show that the United States was being divided by slavery?

Above and Below: "John Brown's Fort" is the building where Brown and several of his followers barricaded themselves during the final hours of their raid. Now part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in today's West Virginia, the building is featured on the reverse side of an "America the Beautiful Quarter" released by the U.S. Mint in 2016.



Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: Growth of the Western Lands

- In 1803, the United States doubled in size through the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory from France. The Louisiana Purchase gave the country 828,000 square miles of land and control of the port city of New Orleans.
- The United States declared war on Great Britain in 1812 over issues of impressment (kidnapping) of American sailors, British demands on American trading, and the British supplying weapons to Native Americans.
- The United States fought against Native Americans in the Northwest Territory and the Deep South during the War of 1812. After the war, there was a push to remove Native Americans from the South. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act, which eventually led to the Trail of Tears in 1838.
- The idea of “manifest destiny”—the belief that the United States had been “chosen” to control the lands from the Atlantic to the Pacific—began to take shape in the mid-1800s.
- War with Mexico (1846-1848), the Oregon Treaty of 1846, the discovery of gold in California (1848), and the Gadsden Purchase (1853) made “manifest destiny” a reality.

Section 2: Slavery Binds and Divides

- Sectionalism was magnified as the country expanded westward and the issue of the expansion of slavery had to be decided.
- Eli Whitney’s invention of the cotton gin (1794) increased the need for slave labor in the South. Before the invention, one man could clean seeds out of one pound of cotton a day; after the invention, one man could clean fifty pounds a day.

- Many Northerners and Quakers (North and South) began to speak out against slavery and to support its abolition. Antislavery activists began helping slaves escape to freedom via the Underground Railroad in the early 1800s.
- The Missouri Compromise (1820) helped maintain a balance between slave and free states but showed how the issue of slavery was beginning to divide the country.
- The rift over slavery widened after the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), the *Dred Scott* case (1857), and John Brown’s raid on Harpers Ferry (1859). The country was on the brink of war with itself.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



John C. Calhoun
Oregon Territory
impressment
manifest destiny
nullification

embargo
William Lloyd Garrison
Harpers Ferry
Harriet Beecher Stowe
free soil

1. area gained by treaty with Great Britain in 1846
2. belief that America should stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific
3. editor of the abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*
4. belief that a state has the right to invalidate a federal law it believed to be unconstitutional
5. South Carolina politician who resigned the vice presidency over high tariffs
6. site of John Brown’s raid in 1859
7. kidnapping of sailors by the British; one cause of the War of 1812
8. author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*
9. an official ban on trade with another country
10. the idea that slavery should not be extended to newly acquired territories

Understanding the Facts

1. Why did Napoleon want to sell the Louisiana Territory?
2. On which countries did President Jefferson place an embargo?
3. Where did most of the battles of the War of 1812 take place?
4. Why should the Battle of New Orleans never have taken place?
5. What percentage of Cherokee people died on the Trail of Tears?
6. Which president oversaw the war with Mexico and the acquisition of California and Oregon?
7. What event hastened the addition of California as a state in the Union?
8. What was the idea behind a protective tariff?
9. What did South Carolina threaten to do over the nullification crisis?
10. After the Whig party broke apart, what new party was created?

Developing Critical Thinking

1. John C. Calhoun resigned as vice president over the issue of nullification and his belief in states' rights. What are some issues that might make a vice president give up office today?
2. Do you think Andrew Jackson was right to threaten military action against South Carolina? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your response.
3. Do you think John Brown was a hero or a traitor? How do his beliefs or actions impact your opinion? Explain your thinking.
4. Create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the major events related to the antebellum slavery debate in the United States.

Exploring Technology

1. Locate information about Sarah and Angelina Grimké from primary or secondary sources on the Internet or from other resources and prepare a brief biography of each sister. Be sure to include the attributes and/or actions that made

them effective abolitionists. Draw distinctions between the two sisters and their individual contributions. Use a digital presentation tool (e.g. Padlet, Glogster, Prezi, or Popplet) to organize and present the information.

2. Go to website <http://docsteach.org/documents/594889/detail> to view a 1903 map of the Louisiana Purchase. List all the states today that were once a part of the Louisiana Territory. Next, add up the current populations of all those states combined and be prepared to share that number with the class. Lastly, give at least three reasons why the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory was so important.

Writing across the Curriculum

1. Find a copy of Sojourner Truth's 1851 speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?". After reading it, write a half-page response to the speech as if you were a newspaper reporter who heard her give it. What are your thoughts? What key points did she make? What was the crowd's reaction?
2. Select one of the events from the following list and write a one-page explanation of why your chosen event was the most important in bringing about the Civil War.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

Kansas-Nebraska Act

Bleeding Kansas

Dred Scott decision

John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry

Encountering Diversity

The Coffin family risked life, property, and reputation to help slaves escape along the Underground Railroad. Research and find examples of others in American history who have also risked greatly to help those in the minority and/or those being affected by what was perceived as an unjust law. Write a brief description of at least two examples.