

Civil War and Reconstruction



Chapter Preview

Terms:

North Carolina Manumission Society, North Carolina Colonization Society, secession, Confederate States of America, Unionist, naval blockade, blockade runner, conscript, price gouging, buffalo, outlier, Home Guard, Peace Movement, Reconstruction, freedmen, Black Codes, carpetbagger, universal manhood suffrage, segregate, Ku Klux Klan, martial law, Kirk-Holden War, impeach, Freedmen's Bureau, sharecropping

People:

Hinton Rowan Helper, James K. Polk, Zebulon B. Vance, Braxton Bragg, Henry L. Wyatt, William W. Holden

Places:

Fort Sumter, Fort Fisher, Bentonville, Bennett Farm

Henry K. Burgwyn Jr., son of one of North Carolina's richest planters, knew early in his life what he wanted to be: a soldier. At age fifteen, he studied at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. At age sixteen, he graduated from the University in Chapel Hill. He continued his training at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) at seventeen. His VMI cadet group guarded the condemned John Brown, the famous abolitionist whose attack on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, helped bring on the Civil War. When the Civil War began, Burgwyn became an officer in the Confederate army. He was a major at nineteen, a colonel at twenty.

Burgwyn's drills led to complaints from many of his soldiers. But at his regiment's first fight, the soldiers' ability to follow orders helped them escape a northern trap. His "great coolness and efficiency" in combat made his troops twice elect him their commander, even though their generals did not want "boy colonels." His regiment, the 26th North Carolina, became one of the very best in the state. For two years, it fought to defend North Carolina's Coastal Plain.

In the summer of 1863, the 26th was part of the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania. On the first day of the battle of Gettysburg, the regiment went head-to-head with the Iron Brigade, the toughest unit in the Union army. The 26th sent eight hundred men into the fight. Twenty minutes later, almost six hundred had been killed or wounded. Eleven soldiers who carried the regimental flag that day were taken down. Colonel Burgwyn became the twelfth. Within seconds of taking up the flag, he took a bullet through his lungs. He died two hours later.

Just as Colonel Burgwyn died at the beginning of his adulthood, so North Carolina seemed to take a mortal blow just as it was becoming the state it wanted to be. The Old North State reluctantly joined the Confederate cause, then suffered some of the greatest losses of any southern state. Courage was not confined to the battlefield. Slaves fled to freedom, farm wives stood up to cheating neighbors, and some men in the west defied the Confederacy, believing like their Regulator ancestors that their government was not acting in their best interests. The debate, fueled once again by sectionalism, continued after the war, during the period called Reconstruction.



Background: Fort Fisher near Wilmington was one of the last Confederate strongholds to fall in the Civil War. It was named for Charles Fisher of Salisbury, president of the North Carolina Railroad before the war.

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.

Invention



Richard Gatling of Northampton County perfected the first machine that could fire bullets in rapid sequence. The Gatling gun, which had a rotating barrel with a dozen cylinders, was first used by the Union army during the Civil

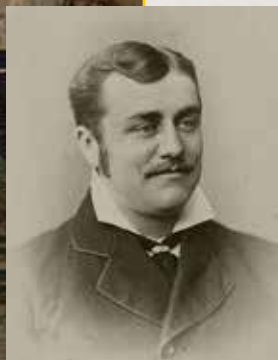
War. It was the forerunner to the twentieth-century machine gun.

Technology

One of the innovations of the Civil War was the use of the ironclad, a ship protected by thick iron armor. The first of the ironclads, the USS *Monitor*, was lost off Cape Hatteras in a storm in 1862. One of North Carolina's ironclads, the CSS *Neuse*, was abandoned at Kinston. It is still there, at a state historic site.

Sports

Union soldiers introduced the game of baseball in occupied New Bern and at the Salisbury prison. Professional baseball began soon after the war in the North. Charley Jones was the first North Carolina major leaguer in 1876. He played for the Boston team that much later became the Atlanta Braves.



Education

Freed black children were first educated in small schools run by northern groups. Often, college-educated women from New England taught at schools such as the one at James City, just outside of New Bern. After the war, Scotia Seminary was set up by northerners in the town of Concord. It survived as Barber-Scotia College into the twenty-first century.

Art

Massachusetts-born painter James M. Whistler completed a portrait in 1871, *Arrangement in Grey and Black*, that later brought him worldwide fame. The better-known name for the painting is *Whistler's Mother*. His mother had been born in Wilmington. Anna McNeill Whistler was trapped in the Cape Fear during the Civil War. She escaped on a blockade runner to be with her son in England.



Population

The state hardly grew during the Civil War period. About 990,000 people lived in the state in 1860, only 8,000 more in 1870. One significant change was the status of the black population; it went from enslaved to free.

Food

What little coffee that could be obtained during the war went to the soldiers. Back home, North Carolinians made do with a variety of substitutes, including the root of the chicory plant and "parched" (slightly burned) sweet potato skins.

Background: A battle of ironclad ships at Hampton Roads, Virginia.



Figure 9.1

Timeline
1860-1880

- 1860** - Abraham Lincoln elected president - **1860**
Confederate States of America formed;
Civil War started - **1861**
- 1861** - North Carolina seceded and joined the Confederacy; Battle at Bethel
- 1862** - Zebulon Vance elected governor; North Carolina coast under Union control
- 1865** - Battle of Bentonville; Black Codes instituted
- 1865** - Civil War ended at Appomattox Court House; President Lincoln assassinated; Freedmen's Bureau created - **1865**
- 1867** - Republican Party established in state
- 1868** - State constitution rewritten
- 1870** - Kirk-Holden War
- 1870** - Transcontinental railroad completed - **1869**
Christmas declared federal holiday - **1870**
- 1871** - Governor Holden impeached and removed
- 1876** - Conservatives regained control of state
- Federal troops withdrawn from the South, ending Reconstruction - **1877**



Above: Celebration of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

Section 1


Sectionalism and Secession

As you read, look for

Setting a Purpose

- ▶ disagreements about abolition within the state;
- ▶ North Carolinians' support for compromises that kept the Union intact;
- ▶ issues that led to North Carolina's secession;
- ▶ terms: **North Carolina Manumission Society, North Carolina Colonization Society, secession, Confederate States of America, Unionist.**

The prosperity of the 1850s aggravated the divisions over slavery in North Carolina. Western areas of the state grew less cotton and more wheat, which meant that those areas needed slaves less than they had in the past. In turn, the huge increases in cotton production turned easterners into defenders of slavery. Henry K. Burgwyn Sr., the father of the “boy colonel,” had been a critic of slavery before 1830. He wrote a pamphlet defending it in 1860.



Above: The cotton fields still required intensive help from slave labor for harvesting.

North Carolinians and Abolition

After the War of 1812, North Carolinians and other Americans argued the great question of the day: Should slavery be continued? In 1820, North Carolina's leadership supported the Missouri Compromise, which resulted in a line being drawn westward from the southern border of Missouri. As discussed in Chapter 8, below the line, slavery could continue in new states like Arkansas. Above the line, in places like Wisconsin, it could not. The line pleased southerners more than northerners. By the 1830s, the number of opponents to slavery had grown in the North. These abolitionists wanted to abolish slavery in the United States as soon as possible.

As with everything else, North Carolinians disagreed among themselves about abolition. North Carolina was notable for having more of its citizens speak out against slavery than any other southern state. Most of the antislavery sentiment was in the western section of the state. This was logical because slaveholding was far less widespread west of the Fall Line.

One group consistently worked to end slavery. In 1816, Quakers in the Uwharries had formed the **North Carolina Manumission Society**, which raised money to buy slaves from their masters. (Manumission is the act of releasing someone from slavery.) The society helped more than one thousand blacks in the fifteen years of its operation. Some Quakers also joined the **North Carolina Colonization Society**, which worked to pay the ship passage back to Africa for free blacks who wished to move there. Other Quakers moved to Indiana to get away from slavery and its effects. Many, like Levi Coffin and his family, became involved with the Underground Railroad, the series of roads, houses, river crossings, and people who helped southern slaves escape to the North or to Canada.



Left: Antislavery Quaker Richard Mendenhall built Mendenhall Plantation around 1811. It was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Below: At the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican War, General Zachary Taylor ordered Captain Braxton Bragg to supply “a little more grape” (grapeshot) to defeat the Mexican soldiers.

DID YOU KNOW...

Braxton Bragg, Robert E. Lee, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, and William T. Sherman were among the Civil War military leaders who served in the Mexican War.

After 1830, however, most North Carolinians strongly supported slavery. They were following the lead of citizens in other southern states, who were beginning to profit from the growing demand for cotton. Southerners believed that cheap slave labor was the key reason cotton was so profitable. As North Carolina grew prosperous after 1835, the defenders of slavery gained a stronger hold on the state. A newspaper declared in 1837 that the state’s support was “unalterable, firm, fixed, and decided.”

Citizens who thought otherwise did so at their peril. Soon after missionaries of an abolitionist-friendly church, the Wesleyans, came into Randolph County to set up congregations, they were run out of the state. One Uwharrie native, Benjamin Hedrick, lost his job as a professor at the University when he admitted that he agreed with the abolitionists. Hedrick barely escaped being tarred and feathered by a mob in Salisbury.

One opponent of slavery was Hinton Rowan Helper, a native of Davie County. Helper spent his young adulthood traveling the country, even going to California to look for gold in 1849. He concluded from his travels that places without slavery provided more prosperity for more people. While working in Salisbury in 1857, Helper wrote a long essay called *The Impending Crisis of the South*, where he argued that slavery worked against the interests of many North Carolinians. “It makes us poor,” wrote Helper of farm families like his. “Poverty makes us ignorant; ignorance makes us wretched; [and] wretchedness makes us wicked.” Once Helper’s book was published, he too had to leave the state.

North Carolinians and the Mexican War

While North Carolina worked hard to shed its Rip Van Winkle image in the 1830s and 1840s, many Americans rushed to the American West to settle new lands and set up new lives. As Americans came to believe in the idea of manifest destiny, they chose a North Carolinian who strongly supported that idea to be their president.



“A LITTLE MORE GRAPE CAPT BRAGG”

GENERAL TAYLOR AT THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA FEB. 23. 1847.

James K. Polk was born near Charlotte and educated at the University. He, like Andrew Jackson, had moved to Tennessee at an early age. Polk was elected president in 1844. To fulfill manifest destiny, Polk moved to annex (add) Texas to the United States and acquire other western territory. As discussed in Chapter 8, when Mexico, angry about the annexation, cut ties with the United States, we declared war on Mexico in May of 1846.

Although several thousand North Carolinians volunteered to fight in the war, some of our western leaders spoke out against the conflict. One congressman called the Mexican War “an unjust war against a weak neighbor.” One reason the Whigs lost control of the state after 1850 was the impression that they had been against the war with Mexico.

The nation came close to civil war in 1850 because of the dispute over what to do with the lands taken from Mexico. North Carolina worshippers that year at a *camp meeting* (religious gathering) at Rock Spring held special services to pray for peace. Some North Carolinians advocated joining the rest of the South in forming a new, separate nation. The state, however, failed to send delegates to a convention in Nashville, Tennessee, where **secession** (the action to be taken if a state decided to leave the Union) was under consideration.

No war occurred, however. Congress passed the Compromise of 1850, which allowed California to enter the Union as a free state. It also guaranteed the protection of slavery with a stronger fugitive slave law that ordered every American citizen to return escaped slaves.



Above: Under President James K. Polk, the United States acquired more than 50,000 square miles of land. **Below:** The Battle of Chapultepec was the final battle of the Mexican War.



The 1860 Election

Although North Carolina was divided over slavery, the state would not side with the North. In 1860, the Republican Party, the new political organization that replaced the Whig Party, nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois as its candidate for president. There were no Republicans in North Carolina to support him. In fact, Lincoln was not even on the ballot in North Carolina or any other southern state. The other candidates in the election were John Bell of Tennessee (Constitutional Union Party), John Breckinridge of Kentucky (southern Democratic Party), and Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois (northern Democratic Party).

John Breckinridge carried North Carolina, but Abraham Lincoln received more votes across the country. After Lincoln won the election, his outspoken opposition to the growth of slavery convinced southerners that they had to act to protect the means of their livelihood. South Carolina and six other southern states seceded from the Union. In early 1861, they formed the **Confederate States of America**.

Figure 9.2

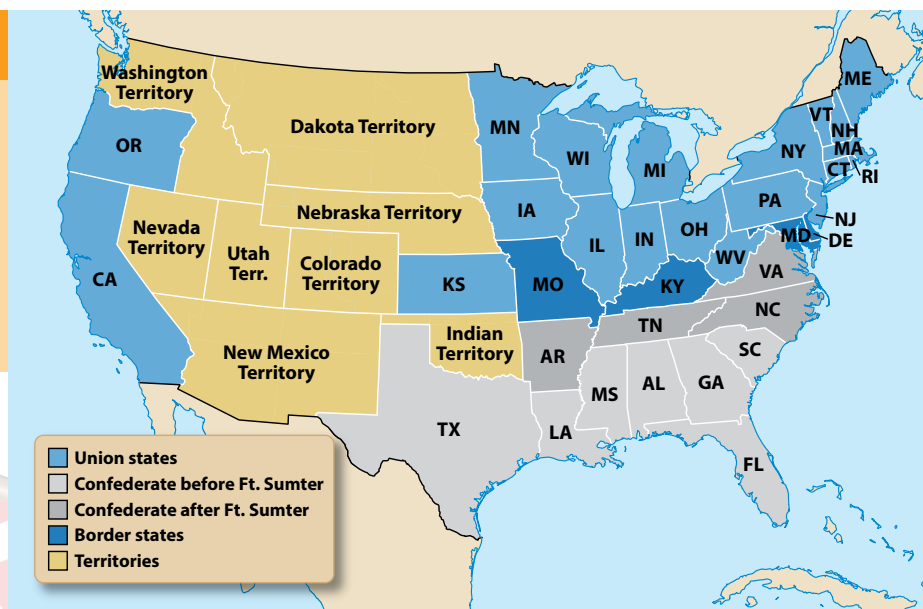
The 1860 Election

	North Carolina	National Totals	Electoral Votes
John Bell	45,129 (46.7%)	590,901 (12.6%)	39
John Breckinridge	48,846 (50.5%)	848,019 (18.1%)	72
Stephen A. Douglas	2,737 (2.8%)	1,380,202 (29.5%)	12
Abraham Lincoln	Not on ballot	1,865,908 (39.8%)	180
Totals	96,712	4,685,030	303

Map 9.1

The Union and the Confederacy

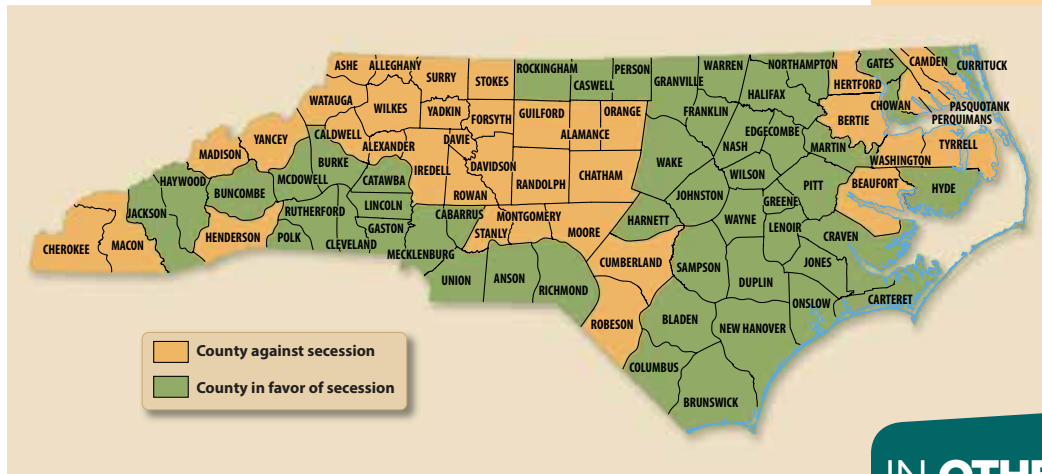
Map Skill: After the 1860 election, how many states remained in the Union? How many total states seceded?



The Failure of Unionism

North Carolina, however, hesitated to join the Confederacy. Because cotton and slaves were not as widespread in the state, **Unionists** (those leaders who wanted to stay in the Union) were more influential. To oppose them, secessionists called for an election to choose delegates to a convention to discuss what to do.

The February 28, 1861, vote concerning the convention showed just how much North Carolina was divided. The people voted 47,323 to 46,672 against holding the convention. The highest Unionist returns were in counties like Randolph and Wilkes in the west. The largest turnouts for secession were in places like Edgecombe and Wayne Counties in the east. Because only thirty of eighty-six counties voted for secession, no convention was held.



Unionists, however, only “conditionally” supported the Union. They did not want any military action taken against their fellow southern states. When Confederates fired upon Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor on April 12, 1861, and President Lincoln called for volunteers to “put down the rebellion,” the die was cast for many Unionists.

As Zebulon B. Vance of Asheville remembered, he learned of Fort Sumter while he was “pleading for the Union” with hand upraised. “When my hand came down,” he recalled, “it fell slowly and sadly by the side of a secessionist.” On May 20, the state held another convention to discuss secession. The delegates to that convention voted unanimously to secede.

Zeb Vance, who was to become North Carolina’s wartime governor, was not the only sad person. Four years of Civil War impacted every state resident, rich or poor; free or slave; white, black, and even red.

It’s Your Turn

1. Which group in North Carolina particularly worked to end slavery?
2. What did Hinton Rowan Helper have to say about slavery?
3. Who won the presidential election of 1860? Why do you think this candidate was the winner?

IN OTHER WORDS

A “die” is one of a pair of dice, and “cast” is the same thing as “thrown.” The well-known phrase “the die is cast” goes back to the days when Rome’s Julius Caesar figuratively “cast his die” by crossing the Rubicon River, which started a civil war. Once dice are thrown, the process cannot be stopped. Once President Lincoln called for troops to “put down the rebellion,” the Civil War was inevitable.

DID YOU KNOW... 

North Carolina joined the Confederacy on May 21, 1861.

special Feature

Carolina People Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley

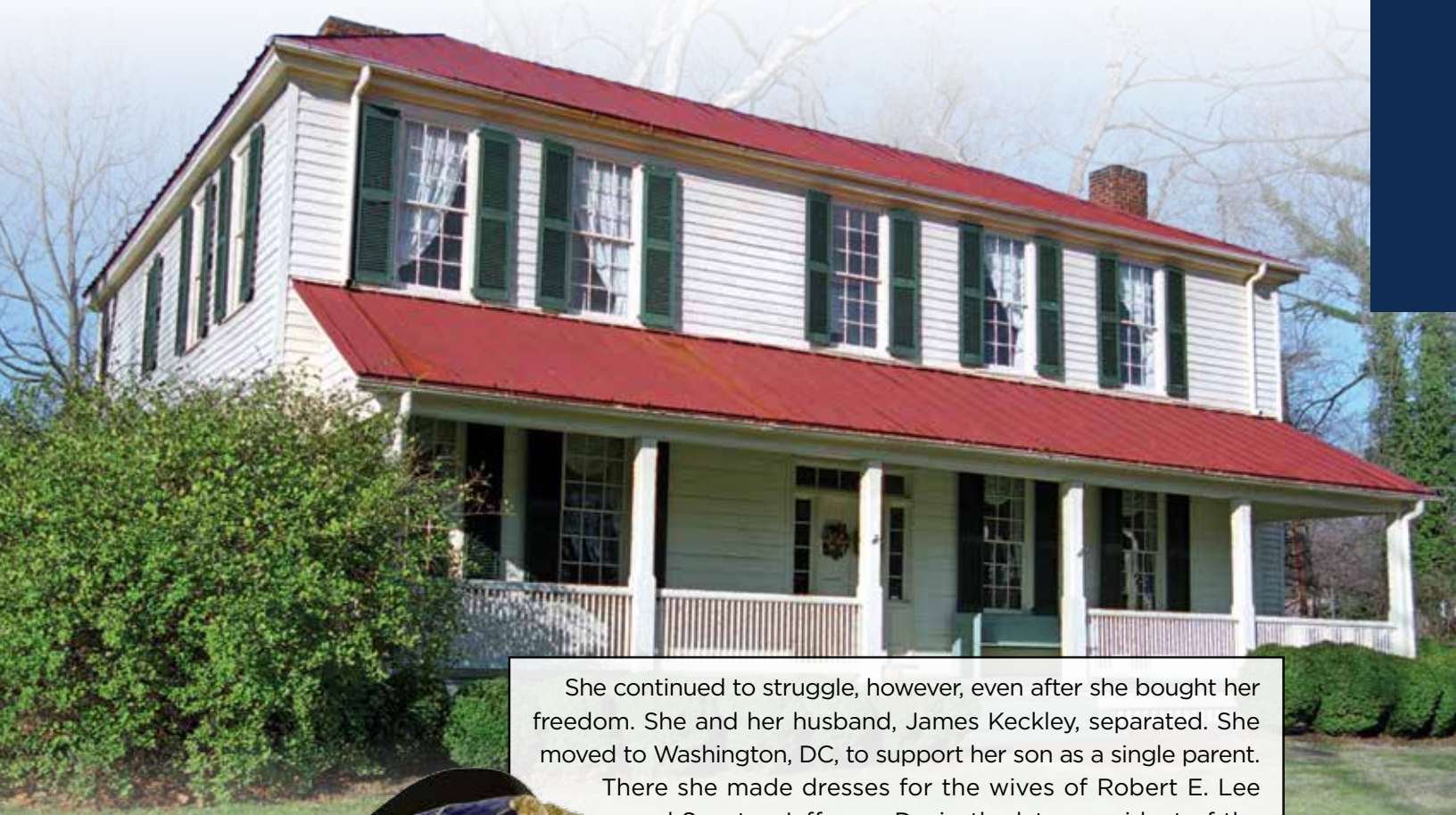
“I was born a slave,” Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley once wrote. “I came upon the earth free in God-like thought, but fettered in action.” This Virginia native who lived part of her life in North Carolina, however, did something about her life. She eventually gained her freedom and became a little-known but important contributor to the great fight to free the slaves during the Civil War. How? Early in life, Elizabeth found her talent and turned it into her passion. She could sew expertly, and she used her abilities as a seamstress to advance through life.

Elizabeth lost her father at an early age when he was moved to the west with his master. Her mother, however, remained a strong influence in her life. As a teenager, she was separated from her mother for a time while she served as a domestic maid at a girls’ school in Hillsborough. Elizabeth was made to do the work of three slaves “but scolded and treated with distrust” for five years. More than once she was beaten for “her stubborn pride.”

Things got worse when Elizabeth and her mother were taken to Missouri, and her mother was made to work even though she was too old. Elizabeth said later that she decided to “work my fingers to the bone” to care for her mother. She used the sewing skills her mother had taught her to make enough money to buy a substitute. In fact, she was such a good seamstress that soon she was making enough money to support her bankrupted master.



Top: Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley. **Left:** Elias Howe patented an American version of a sewing machine in 1845.



She continued to struggle, however, even after she bought her freedom. She and her husband, James Keckley, separated. She moved to Washington, DC, to support her son as a single parent. There she made dresses for the wives of Robert E. Lee and Senator Jefferson Davis, the later president of the Confederacy. She was so successful that she was able to send her son to one of the first colleges to admit black students, Wilberforce University in Ohio.

During the Civil War, Elizabeth's reputation gained her a really famous client: Mary Todd Lincoln. She made more than a dozen dresses for her, including Mrs. Lincoln's 1861 inaugural gown. The First Lady soon found Mrs. Keckley to be a good friend as well as a good employee. Both women lost sons during the war, and, during the tense times in the White House, Elizabeth gave counsel both to the president and Mrs. Lincoln. She even sometimes brushed the president's hair before he went to give speeches.

Unfortunately, after the assassination of the president in 1865, Mrs. Lincoln became ill and broke off the friendship. Elizabeth, however, kept a picture of the former First Lady with her until her death. Although Mrs. Keckley was one of the most celebrated black women of the Civil War, she died in a home for the *destitute* (extremely poor) in Washington, DC, in 1907.



Top: Elizabeth Keckley lived in the Burwell House in Hillsborough for five years. **Above:** Mrs. Lincoln's inaugural gown, made by Elizabeth Keckley, is on display at the Smithsonian Institution.



Section 2

Sticking with the Confederacy

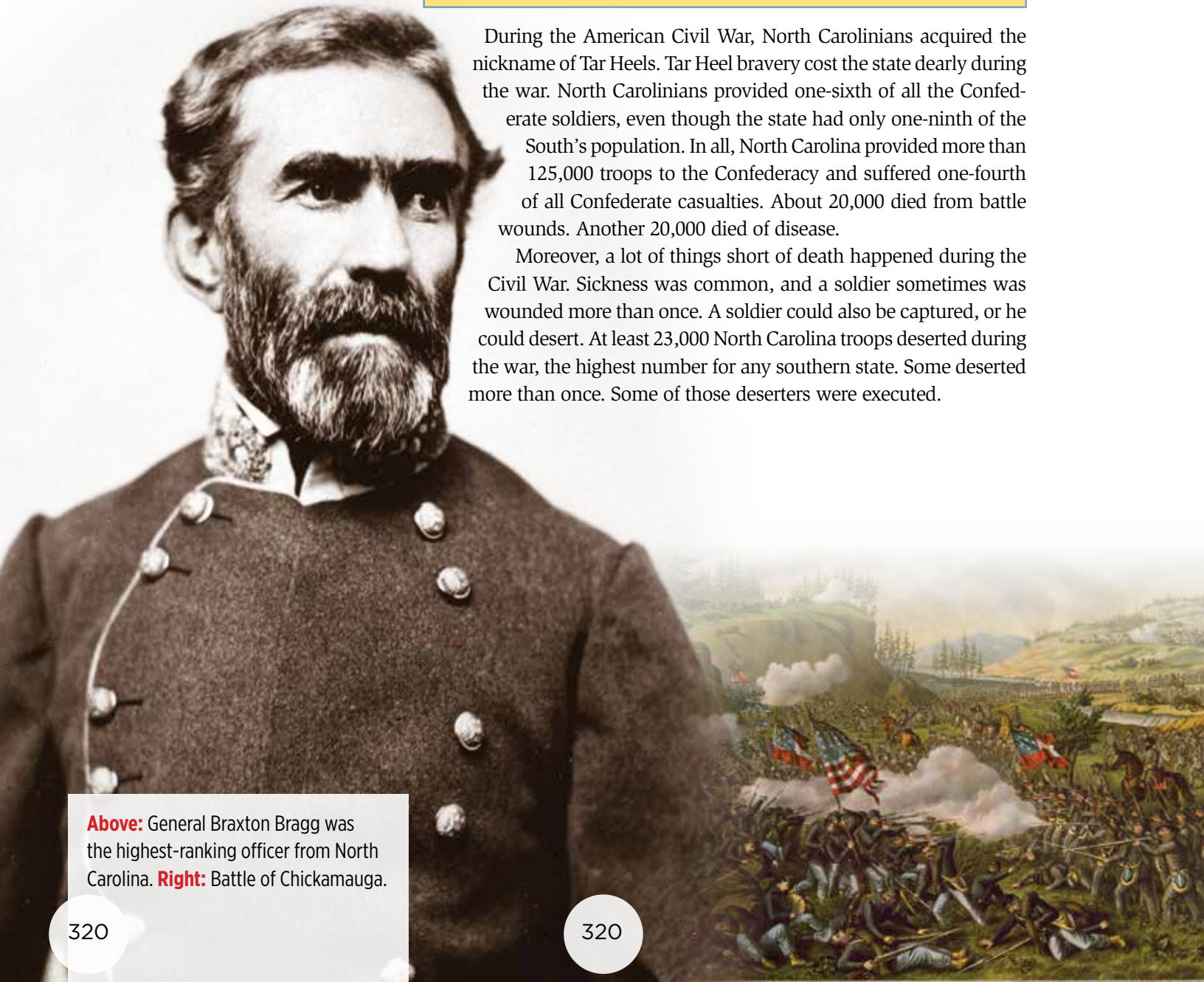

 Setting a Purpose

As you read, look for

- ▶ North Carolinians' participation in the war;
- ▶ the effect of blockade runners on the Confederacy;
- ▶ how North Carolina troops earned the slogan "first at Bethel, farthest at Gettysburg, and last at Appomattox";
- ▶ terms: **naval blockade**, **blockade runner**.

During the American Civil War, North Carolinians acquired the nickname of Tar Heels. Tar Heel bravery cost the state dearly during the war. North Carolinians provided one-sixth of all the Confederate soldiers, even though the state had only one-ninth of the South's population. In all, North Carolina provided more than 125,000 troops to the Confederacy and suffered one-fourth of all Confederate casualties. About 20,000 died from battle wounds. Another 20,000 died of disease.

Moreover, a lot of things short of death happened during the Civil War. Sickness was common, and a soldier sometimes was wounded more than once. A soldier could also be captured, or he could desert. At least 23,000 North Carolina troops deserted during the war, the highest number for any southern state. Some deserted more than once. Some of those deserters were executed.



Above: General Braxton Bragg was the highest-ranking officer from North Carolina. **Right:** Battle of Chickamauga.

Although North Carolina provided large numbers of soldiers, the state was no more the military leader of the Confederacy than it had been a political force in America's earlier history. Thirty-seven North Carolinians were generals, but only one led whole armies. Warrenton native Braxton Bragg, after whom Fort Bragg was later named, commanded Confederates west of the Appalachians, with only mediocre success.

Fighting on the Virginia Front

Much of the early fighting in the Civil War took place in Virginia. North Carolinians fought bravely in just about every major engagement in Virginia. North Carolinians ever since have been taught to remember that their troops were “first at Bethel, farthest at Gettysburg, and last at Appomattox.”

At Bethel, Virginia, in the summer of 1861, the first North Carolinian was killed in combat, Henry L. Wyatt of Edgecombe County. He was also the only Confederate soldier killed in the battle. In 1863, North Carolinians under General J. J. Pettigrew formed part of Pickett's Charge at the three-day Battle of Gettysburg. Some North Carolinians have always called it the “Pickett-Pettigrew Charge,” because almost as many North Carolinians were in it as Virginians. The frontal assault took thousands of Confederates across open ground for more than a mile under heavy Union fire. Despite taking horrendous casualties, Tar Heels pushed through the Union line. Their actions, however, did not carry the day, for the Confederacy was forced to retreat. Tar Heels stayed with the Confederacy until the end. When the Confederate army laid down its arms at Appomattox Court House in 1865, one-fourth of those who surrendered were North Carolinians.

Men from the Old North State were at the forefront of the fighting at other times during the war. In September 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee invaded Maryland, hoping to capture Washington, DC. Lee was almost trapped in a battle at Sharpsburg. His Army of Northern Virginia was on the brink of being destroyed when a fast-moving column of North Carolinians came onto the battlefield just in time to stem the tide and break the Union advance.



It was the 1st Regiment North Carolina Volunteers that fought in the first battle of the Civil War at Big Bethel.



The capital of the Union—Washington, DC—and the capital of the Confederacy—Richmond, Virginia—were only 100 miles apart.



Left: At Gettysburg, North Carolinians accounted for one-fourth of the Confederate losses.

HAVE YOU VISITED...



Fort Fisher State Historic Site? Though it was once the largest and most important earthwork fort in the South, all that remain of Fort Fisher today are a few mounds, because much of it has been eroded by the ocean. The site still holds the interest of visitors with a restored gun emplacement, a tour trail and wayside exhibits, and indoor exhibits including a large fiber-optic battle map.

DID YOU KNOW...



Union ships finally captured the *Advance* in September 1864 after her twelfth voyage.



Above: Fort Fisher's guns kept the Union's blockading ships away from the mouth of the Cape Fear River until its fall in January 1865. It is now a state historic site. **Background:** Fort Macon on Bogue Banks guarded the approach to Beaufort. Union forces bombarded the fort, and Confederate forces surrendered it in April 1862.

North Carolinians also committed one of the greatest mistakes of the war. At Chancellorsville in May 1863, North Carolinians marched with General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson around the Union army and surprised it from behind. After the attack, General Jackson got caught between the lines and was mistaken for a Union general. North Carolinians accidentally wounded him, and he later died from his wounds.

Defending the North Carolina Coastline

Although the Civil War was fought mostly in Virginia and Tennessee, considerable fighting took place along coastal North Carolina. Once the war began, the North planned to attack Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, from several directions. One way was through the Albemarle Sound. In the summer of 1861, the Union began to capture Confederate forts on the Outer Banks. By 1862, the North controlled the sounds.

The North had a second objective in mind with its invasion of North Carolina. Since the start of the war, the North had maintained a **naval blockade**, where a fleet of ships patrolled the ocean outside all southern ports. The intent was to keep the Confederacy from receiving supplies from other nations. By 1863, most southern ports had been cut off. Eventually, only Wilmington remained open. The North was kept away from the mouth of the Cape Fear because of the sandbars and shallow water. In addition, a nearby post, Fort Fisher, guarded the mouth of the river.

Ironically, the coastline that had been such a disadvantage through North Carolina's history was turned into an advantage for the South. The Confederates used the currents, tides, and shoals to outmaneuver the North's ships. **Blockade runners**, low-lying steamships that were painted gray to match the ocean and fool pursuers, were able to slip in and out of Cape Fear waters. These ships went to British ports in the Bahamas and Bermuda to load up on supplies for the Confederate military. They came back with foodstuffs, ammunition, uniforms, and firearms. The most famous blockade runner was the *Advance* owned by the state of North Carolina.

By 1864, most supplies supporting General Lee's army came through Wilmington and were transported to Virginia along the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad. This track became so vital to the war effort that southerners came to call it “the lifeline of the Confederacy.”

The North wanted to cut off the Confederate supply line. For more than two years, North Carolina troops kept them away. More than a dozen small battles were fought at various points in the Tidewater. Generals Daniel H. Hill and Robert F. Hoke, both Tar Heel natives, made several unsuccessful efforts in 1864 to retake New Bern, Washington, Plymouth, and other coastal towns. These Confederate counterattacks, however, kept the Union from the state's vital rail line until the end of the war.



The End of the War

As the war raged on elsewhere in 1865, invaders closed in on North Carolina from all sides. In January, a Union naval force took Fort Fisher, closing Wilmington’s port.

Union General William T. Sherman, after completing his infamous “March to the Sea” in Georgia, turned north into the Carolinas. After burning Columbia, South Carolina, Sherman’s army headed toward the key railroad depot at Goldsboro, to cut off “the lifeline of the Confederacy.” Along the way, Sherman destroyed an arsenal at Fayetteville and battled makeshift Confederate forces at Bentonville in Johnston County. Bentonville was the largest battle fought in the state during the war. Sherman took possession of central North Carolina. He spared Raleigh the fiery fate of Columbia. Some of his troops camped on the University campus in Chapel Hill, where they stabled their horses in the library.

On April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Soon after Appomattox, the last remnants of Confederate troops under General Joseph Johnston surrendered in a ceremony held at the Bennett Farm, located near the train depot called Durham Station. By the end of April 1865, most North Carolina soldiers were on their way home.

Map 9.3

The Civil War in North Carolina

Map Skill: Based on the map, what can you conclude about the time of year (season) most battles were fought? Why do you think this is so?

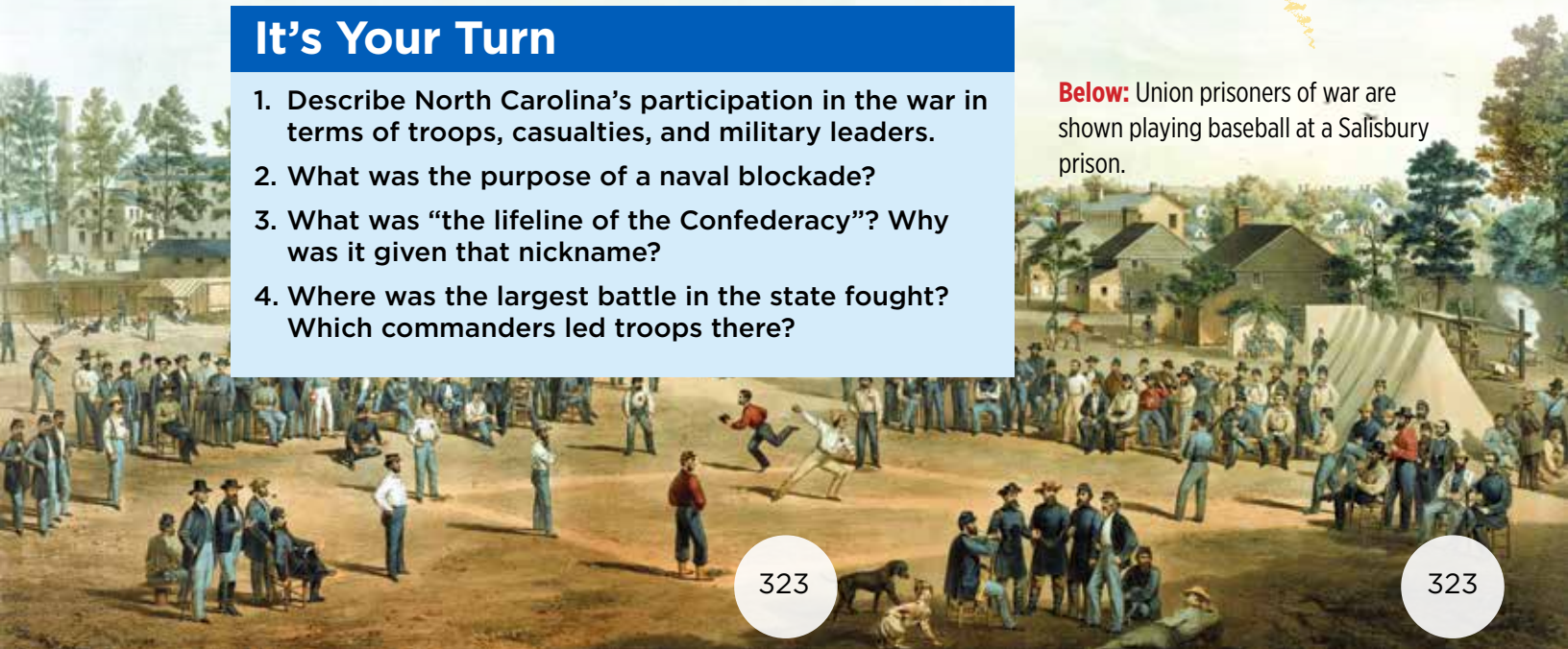


At Greensboro, General Stoneman’s cavalry narrowly missed capturing Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet who were retreating to Charlotte.

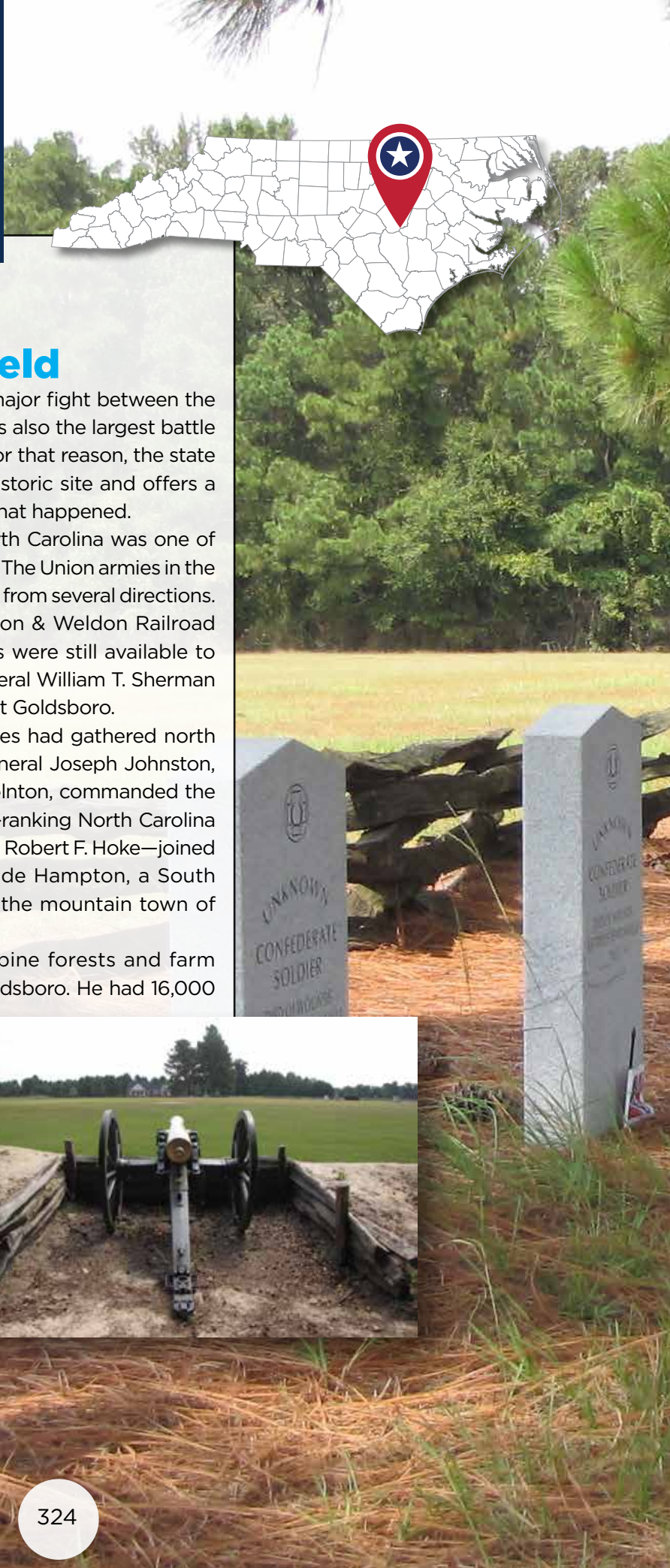
It’s Your Turn

1. Describe North Carolina’s participation in the war in terms of troops, casualties, and military leaders.
2. What was the purpose of a naval blockade?
3. What was “the lifeline of the Confederacy”? Why was it given that nickname?
4. Where was the largest battle in the state fought? Which commanders led troops there?

Below: Union prisoners of war are shown playing baseball at a Salisbury prison.



special Feature



Carolina Places Bentonville Battlefield

The Battle of Bentonville was the last major fight between the North and the South in the Civil War. It was also the largest battle fought in North Carolina during the war. For that reason, the state has preserved the battlefield as a state historic site and offers a fourteen-mile guided tour to tell visitors what happened.

In the last months of the Civil War, North Carolina was one of the last “unconquered” Confederate states. The Union armies in the spring of 1865, however, came into the state from several directions. After Wilmington was lost, the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad continued to transport what few supplies were still available to Confederate soldiers. Because of this, General William T. Sherman pushed toward the vital railroad crossing at Goldsboro.

Remnants of several Confederate armies had gathered north of Fayetteville to try to stop Sherman. General Joseph Johnston, who had been living in retirement in Lincolnton, commanded the ragtag southern forces. The three highest-ranking North Carolina generals—Braxton Bragg, Daniel H. Hill, and Robert F. Hoke—joined him with whatever troops they had. Wade Hampton, a South Carolina general who would later live in the mountain town of Cashiers, was also present.

Johnston lay in wait in the longleaf pine forests and farm fields on the road from Fayetteville to Goldsboro. He had 16,000 troops. Sherman could call upon 60,000. Nearby was the hamlet of Bentonville, which lent its name to the battlefield.

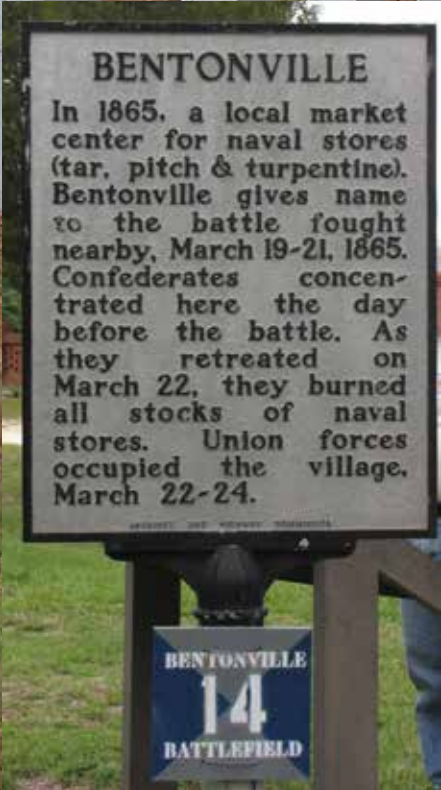




For three days—March 19, 20, and 21, 1865—the Confederates hung on to their position. Johnston shifted his outnumbered troops around a lot to meet new threats by the Union army. On the first day, the Confederates had the advantage of surprise. They attacked the North before the

Union troops could get into position. The second day of fighting was a series of small fights, which Sherman initiated to keep the enemy occupied. By the third day, the Union had moved its army around until part of its troops got on the other side of the Confederate line. The Union attack pushed the southerners out of their shallow trenches. General Johnston was almost captured in the quick retreat.

More than a half dozen North Carolina regiments were involved in the battle. In addition, the state had drafted regiments of “Junior Reserves,” young teenagers from different communities across the state. For many, this was their one and only battle. One of their commanders, seventeen-year-old Walter Clark of Halifax County, had just graduated from the University in Chapel Hill. He later became the chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. John A. Foil from Cabarrus County was part of the 70th Reserves. Foil went on to become a minister and a professor of mathematics at Catawba College.



Top and Above: During the Battle of Bentonville, the Harper House served as a hospital. The lower floor has been restored to the way it was in 1865.

Section 3

Conflicts on the Home Front

As you read, look for


 Setting a Purpose

- ▶ how the war affected families on the home front;
- ▶ those who resisted the war;
- ▶ the Peace Movement in the state;
- ▶ terms: **conscript**, **price gouging**, **buffalo**, **outlier**, **Home Guard**, **Peace Movement**.

The Civil War, like the American Revolution, bred conflict within the state. Not every citizen willingly marched off to war. Almost 20,000 North Carolinians were **conscripted**; that is, they were made to join the Confederate army. With so many men gone, some citizens took advantage of the soldiers' families. One woman along the Western Railroad sent a new hat to her husband in the army. When it did not arrive, she went to the nearby train depot to investigate. She found the stationmaster wearing the hat! **Price gouging** (charging a higher price than is "fair") was a constant fact of the war, as money in North Carolina lost value. For example, a barrel of flour cost thirty times in 1864 what it had cost in 1861.



Right: During the Civil War, the Confederate government in North Carolina printed its own paper money. This \$50 note, which featured a portrait of Governor Zebulon Vance, was issued in January 1865. By that time, Confederate money had lost much of its value. **Background:** A barrel of flour cost 30 times in 1864 what it had cost in 1861.

Women in the War

The cost of war particularly strained families. To keep the army in the field, the state required every family to provide a “tax-in-kind,” a portion of all the produce grown on the family farm. This was difficult. In North Carolina, the men in more than half of the farming households had gone off to war. If the soldier was a husband, then the wife had the burden of doing both her job and his in planting, harvesting, and feeding the rest of the family. As one young woman in the west later recalled, “When the war commenced, this was our hard time.” By 1863, many soldiers’ wives had to seek financial help from their communities. In some counties, 25 percent of families received goods like cornmeal, bacon, or salt from the state.

Women worked hard to preserve their families and protect their children during the war. When prices began to rise steeply in 1863, women participated in flour riots. A “mob of females and a number of men” in Salisbury demanded flour at a reasonable cost. When a merchant refused, the women broke down his door and took ten barrels. Another group did the same thing in High Point. In Newton, Lavinia Wilfong, who had six sons in the Confederate army, emptied barrels of whiskey to stop the disorder that drunkenness was causing in her town.



Deserters and Fugitives

Disorder spread across the state by 1863. In the Tidewater, groups of **buffaloes** (so called because they were said to “go about in gangs like buffaloes”) hid in the swamps to avoid fighting for the Confederacy. Many citizens regarded them as thieves. A group of buffaloes broke into the Somerset Plantation and took clothes and other belongings.

Some of the buffaloes actually went over to fight for the North. Once the Union had captured New Bern, it set up a new state government there and made Edward Stanly the Union governor for eastern North Carolina. He soon recruited both whites and blacks to fight for the North.

Throughout the east, slaves left the plantations and fled to the Union lines. When a Union force moved through the Albemarle region in 1862, more than two thousand refugees came under Union protection. Thousands of escaped slaves crowded the streets of New Bern by 1863. Some of the escaped men then joined the Union army.

DID YOU KNOW...

During the war, the state built a factory at Wilmington to get salt from sea water.

Above: With their men gone to war, many families suffered. Here southern women in an occupied area are forced to ask Union troops for food.

The west was even more disorderly than the east. In the Uwharries, a majority had opposed secession. There, groups similar to the buffaloes went by the name **outliers** because many of them were “lying out in the woods” to avoid being conscripted into the Confederate army. Outliers were soon “going from house to house,” said one Randolph County farmer, “killing dogs and chickens and stealing eggs.” These groups sometimes numbered in the hundreds. They often fought skirmishes with the **Home Guard**, the older men of a county who were charged with defending their neighborhoods.

In the Uwharries, many unhappy citizens joined the Heroes of America, a society organized by former UNC professor Benjamin S. Hedrick to help men desert the Confederate cause. Because membership was treason, members kept the fact secret, revealing themselves to one another by sewing a thin red thread in their jacket collars. The “red strings” were so numerous in the Uwharries that more than ten thousand people attended a rally on the day after the Battle of Gettysburg. They celebrated July 4, 1863, by running a United States flag up a pole. Disorder was so bad by late 1863 that General Hoke came with Confederate troops to arrest the “bushwhackers.” He rounded up more than four thousand men and sent them back to the army.

Fighting among North Carolinians was the most vicious in the mountains. Outliers controlled the Brushy Mountains for most of the war. In Yadkin County, a group of conscripts barricaded themselves in a schoolhouse and fought off the Home Guard. A band of five hundred outliers roamed Wilkes County. They were “organized” and “drilled regularly.” When the Home Guard tried to stop them, more than one battle was fought.

The area around Asheville was deeply divided. The worst episode came in Madison County where Confederate troops shot thirteen old men and boys believed to be outliers, the “most brutal mass murder of prisoners” in state history. This made resistance to the Confederacy even stiffer in some mountain coves. The fierce fighting in the mountains continued until the war ended.



Above: Pro-Union sentiment and rugged terrain made the mountains a safe place for outliers. **Bottom:** Once Union forces captured the coastal areas, slaves streamed toward the Union lines.

History by the Highway

Egypt Coal Mine

Coal was not found often in the North Carolina mountains. The best vein ever tapped in the state was in Lee County, northeast of Sanford. The Egypt Mine was later renamed the Cumnock after the Civil War. Almost its entire production was used by locomotives during the nineteenth century.



The Peace Movement

As the Confederacy struggled to continue, some North Carolinians concluded that secession had been a bad idea. They rallied around the leadership of William W. Holden, a prominent newspaper editor. Holden had originally favored secession. When he saw the suffering in North Carolina, he changed his mind. Holden was particularly angry that North Carolina provided so many resources to the war effort, yet had little role in the leadership of the Confederacy. After the Battle of Gettysburg, Holden began to urge the state to seek a separate peace with the North. The proposal soon grew into a **Peace Movement**. Holden became such a critic of the Confederacy that Georgia soldiers passing through Raleigh came to his office and destroyed his printing press.

Opposing Holden throughout the war was Zebulon B. Vance, who had been elected governor in 1862. Vance, who grew up near Asheville, had been the rising star of North Carolina politics during the 1850s. He was said to have been the best speaker ever heard in North Carolina. Early in the Civil War, Vance became the first commander of the regiment trained by Henry Burgwyn. He was so popular in the state that he was elected governor while still in the army. He was the “soldier’s candidate.”



William Holden called the war “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight” because those who were wealthy enough could hire substitutes to serve for them.



the Vance Birthplace State Historic Site? This pioneer farmstead in the Reems Creek valley features the birthplace of Zebulon Vance. The five-room log house—reconstructed around original chimneys—and its outbuildings are furnished to reflect the period from 1795 to 1840. Visitors learn about the history of Vance’s famous mountain family and about Zebulon Vance’s political career as a Civil War officer, North Carolina governor, and U.S. senator.

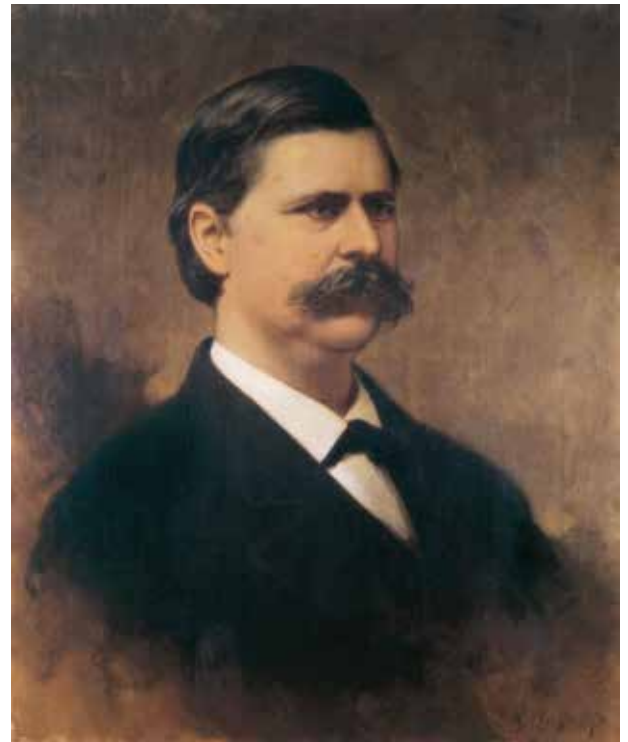
Right: Zebulon B. Vance was elected governor in 1862. A Whig Unionist, he opposed many of Jefferson Davis's policies.

As governor, Vance sympathized with those who thought North Carolina was being unfairly treated. He particularly quarreled with the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. Vance insisted that all supplies raised in the state go only to North Carolina troops. He worked as hard as he could to make the state's soldiers comfortable. He led an effort to use the resources of all the state's factories and foundries (places where iron and steel are made into useful items) to supply state regiments.

Vance *adamantly* (strongly) opposed the Peace Movement. He argued to citizens across the state that a separate peace meant submission to the North.

The consequences could include the execution of public officials, confiscation of slaves, and higher taxes. And North Carolina would have to fight off a new enemy, for the other southern states would turn against their former ally.

In the election of 1864, Vance and Holden were the two candidates for governor. Vance won majorities across the state. Holden received most of his votes in the Uwharries and Brushy Mountains, where anger at the Confederacy was the highest. Fewer than half of the eligible men actually voted. Although Vance got most of the soldier vote, only one-third of them bothered to cast their ballots. Low turnout may have indicated just how upset North Carolina was over the war. Governor Vance, thus, continued to lead a divided state until the North put an end to resistance in 1865.



DID YOU KNOW...



Confederate President Davis urged Governor Vance to arrest William Holden and charge him with treason. Vance refused.

It's Your Turn

1. Why were there flour riots in the state?
2. In what part of the state was resistance to the Confederacy the strongest?
3. Who was the leader of the Peace Movement in North Carolina?
4. Who served as North Carolina's governor during the Civil War? How did his work benefit North Carolinians?

Section 4

Reconstruction in the State

As you read, look for

- ▶ how the Black Codes affected the freedmen of North Carolina;
- ▶ the steps taken by North Carolina to rejoin the Union;
- ▶ changes made by the Republicans, including the constitution of 1868;
- ▶ problems caused by the Ku Klux Klan in the state;
- ▶ how the Conservatives regained power in the state;
- ▶ terms: **Reconstruction, freedmen, Black Codes, carpetbagger, universal manhood suffrage, segregate, Ku Klux Klan, martial law, Kirk-Holden War, impeach.**

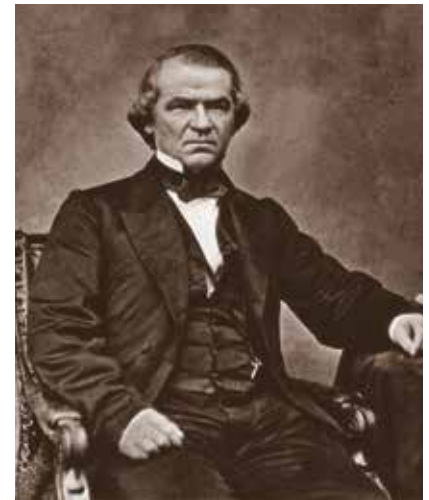


When the Civil War ended in the spring of 1865, many North Carolinians were on the move. Almost all the state's soldiers had to walk home, some all the way from Union prisons in Maryland and New York. Thousands of former slaves, who had been freed by the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, moved too. They wanted to live anywhere but on their former plantations. Zeb Vance, the Confederate governor, went off to prison, the only state citizen jailed because of the war. William W. Holden, the Peace Movement leader, moved into Vance's former home, the Governor's Mansion. Andrew Johnson, the North Carolina native who became president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, named Holden temporary governor of the state in April. President Johnson's appointment of Holden was part of his Reconstruction plan.

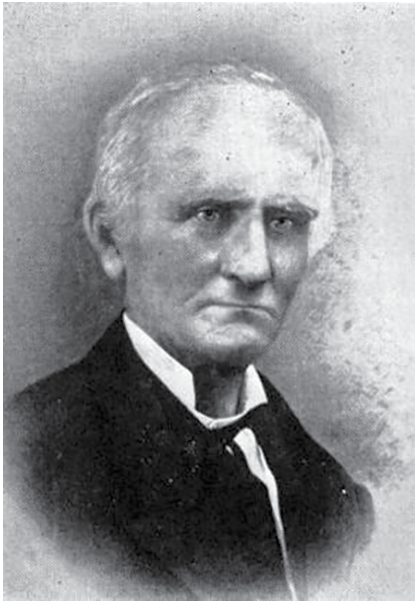


Reconstruction refers to the steps taken to restore the southern states to the Union and rebuild the South.

During the five years just after the war, 1865 to 1870, Holden was the most important individual in the state. He worked diligently to reorganize and reform the state, to great opposition from the leaders who had taken North Carolina into the Confederacy. In the end, Holden's reforms were compromised by violence and intimidation.



Above Left: North Carolinian Walter Hines Page called William W. Holden "one of the foremost men in intellectual power and daring that were ever born here." **Above Right:** President Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh but moved to Tennessee at age sixteen.



DID YOU KNOW...

The proposed constitution of 1865-1866 was rejected by the people in a vote of 21,770 to 19,880.

DID YOU KNOW...

North Carolina voters ratified the new constitution in April 1868 by a vote of 93,086 to 74,046.

Top: Jonathan Worth. **Middle:** This illustration in the July 25, 1868, *Harper's Weekly* shows a man representing the Freedmen's Bureau standing between armed groups of whites and blacks.

Black Codes

In the election of November 1865, William W. Holden was defeated for governor by Jonathan Worth, who had been the state treasurer. The legislature elected in November ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (as instructed by the national government) and drafted a new state constitution. The legislature also passed a series of laws that defined the social status of the newly freed slaves, or **freedmen** as they were called.

The laws, soon called **Black Codes**, allowed the freedmen to be married, to educate their children, and to own property. However, the same laws denied freedmen many rights that whites took for granted. Black families could not move from one county to another without a pass from the sheriff. Black men could not own firearms, and they could not serve on juries. Most of all, freedmen were required to sign an annual contract with an employer, which meant they could not change jobs more than once a year. The contract also required them to pay for all expenses they owed their employer before they could move to another job. As most freedmen knew, this was really just slavery re-written, despite the claims of the Thirteenth Amendment.

By 1866, other southern states had also written Black Codes, and the federal government, dominated by the Republican Party, moved to stop this. They told North Carolina its laws for freedmen were invalid. Congress reinstated a military occupation in the South. Congress told North Carolina that it would not be readmitted to the Union until it rewrote its laws and passed a new constitution to recognize freedmen as citizens.

William W. Holden organized the Republican Party in North Carolina to do what Congress required. When a federal official ruled that freedmen could vote in the election for the constitutional convention, Holden and other white leaders welcomed blacks into the Republican Party. With the help of black votes, the Republicans won the election of 1867, electing 107 delegates to the Conservative Democrats' 13 delegates.

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The State Constitution of 1868

Delegates from across the state came to Raleigh in 1868 to write a new state constitution. Twenty-three of the delegates were former slaves, and half of the white Republicans had never before held significant political office. A few of the whites were **carpetbaggers**, men from northern states who had come to North Carolina to gain power and fortune. Together, they formed a government in tune with the needs of the common people.



The new constitution differed from the 1835 constitutional reforms in a number of ways. First and foremost, the constitution established the idea of **universal manhood suffrage**. In other words, all men over the age of twenty-one could vote regardless of their color or their economic status. Before, slave men had been excluded from all voting, and poor white men could not vote for state senators.

Second, the constitution greatly increased the number of public offices chosen by the people. Before, the counties were run by appointed justices of the peace. The new constitution created the county commission, where commissioners were elected. The governor's term of office was increased from two years to four years.

Third, the constitution required that the state provide more services for its people. Most importantly, public education was no longer optional for the counties. Every community had to provide schools for its children. Both black and white children were to be provided with schools, although the constitution allowed them to be **segregated** (separated by race).

With the passage of the 1868 constitution, the many new poor voters were able to elect a Republican government. After several failed attempts, William W. Holden was finally elected governor. He immediately started to improve conditions within the state.



AMENDMENT XIII
Ratified December 6, 1865
Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject of their jurisdiction.
AMENDMENT XIV
Excerpt
Ratified July 9, 1868
Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
AMENDMENT XV
Ratified February 3, 1870
Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Figure 9.3

Reconstruction Amendments

Above: This print by famous cartoonist Thomas Nast celebrating the emancipation of southern slaves at war's end shows a somewhat optimistic picture of the freedmen's future.

Radical Republicans in Control

The first step of the new legislature was to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. With that ratification and the new state constitution, North Carolina was readmitted to the Union in July 1868.

The Republicans in the legislature also passed laws that allowed the state to borrow money to rebuild and expand the state's railroads. The same legislature expanded institutions for the handicapped and created Central Prison in Raleigh, where criminals from across the state were to be jailed. The idea was to take hardened convicts and get them away from overcrowded and haphazardly run county jails.

Despite being the majority, Republicans faced great opposition from the former supporters of the Confederacy, who called themselves Conservatives. Building all the rail lines, schools, and other institutions had led to increased taxes. The basis for taxes remained land, and former Confederates owned most of the land. The Conservatives were particularly upset with the mismanagement of railroad construction. In most cases, the contractors cheated the state out of money and failed to complete the job on time.

The Conservatives faulted carpetbaggers for misleading the former freedmen into making bad decisions for the state. Holden and his allies, they said, were too "radical" and took the state too far in a new direction.

Below: This costume was typical of KKK dress. **Right Bottom:** Starting as a social group, the Ku Klux Klan became a secret political terrorist organization. It tried to stop Republicans, mostly blacks, from voting.



White Conservatives Regain Control

The Conservatives worked hard to regain control of the state. Influential newspapers in Raleigh and Charlotte exposed every wrongdoing on the part of the radicals. Some of the reporting was fair, and some was not. Most of all, the white-run newspapers highlighted any mistake made by a freedman legislator.

The Conservatives also organized a variety of groups to intimidate Republicans. During 1869, the **Ku Klux Klan** became an active arm of the Conservative resistance. As many as 40,000 white North Carolinians may have belonged. The purpose was clearly stated by one member: “to provide an intelligent white man’s government.” The Klan had organized in Tennessee right after the Civil War as a social organization for Confederate veterans. It soon developed into a secret, racist organization and spread across the South.

“Ku Kluxers,” as they were first called, generally wore horned masks and red gowns to conceal their identity. These “night riders” made more than 250 “visitations” to Republicans in 25 counties. More than two-thirds of those visited were black residents. Sometimes they just warned a freedman not to be active with the Republicans. Other times, the Klansmen whipped their victims for some alleged offense. One white Republican near the town of Hickory was whipped because he supposedly encouraged his daughter to date a black man.

The Klan was accused of having committed at least fifteen murders, mostly in the area of Caswell, Alamance, and Orange Counties. In 1870, for example, a long procession of robed horsemen took Wyatt Outlaw, a freedman who had been brave enough to speak out against the Klan, to a tree at the courthouse in the town of Graham and hanged him. Later that year in Caswell County, John Stephens, a white Republican who dared the Klan to come for him, was stabbed to death.

Below: During Reconstruction, “provost marshals” (today’s military police) were charged with keeping order. This group of provost marshals operated in the Morganton area.



Redemption in North Carolina

The Conservative legislature increased its control of the state by getting rid of Governor Holden. In 1871, Holden was **impeached**. That is, charges were filed against him for wrongdoing while in office, specifically for the way he arrested so many people without charge. Holden was convicted in part because he was not allowed to enter testimony about the Ku Klux Klan. The Conservatives ruled that since the Klan did not exist, it was not to be discussed. Holden was removed from office, the first governor in United States history to whom this happened.

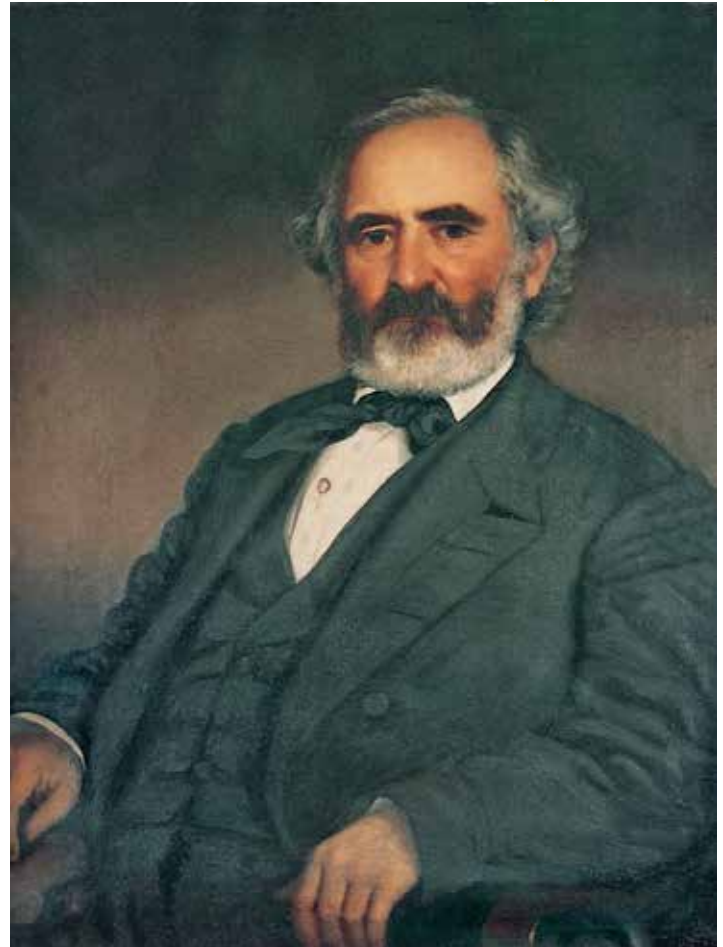
The Conservatives then worked to “redeem” the state by undoing as many of the radicals’ reforms as they could. They could do nothing about the fact that freedmen were now citizens and that black men could vote. This was guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. But the Conservatives could amend the state constitution to change the way state government worked. Because the Conservatives held a one-vote majority over the Republicans at the constitutional convention of 1875, they amended the Holden reforms.

The most important amendments gave the legislature more control over the freedmen in the state. The legislature was given the power to choose the justices of the peace that were in each neighborhood across the state. Often, these justices of the peace had been black Republicans in areas with a large freedman population. The convention also required that schools be segregated. And the convention made it tougher for poor men who moved around a lot to register to vote.

The amendments proposed by the convention of 1875 were hotly debated in the election of 1876. Conservatives, who had begun to rename themselves Democrats, argued that they were bringing “redemption” to the state, that they were saving it from the trouble caused by the radicals. Zeb Vance, the old Civil War governor, led the Conservatives to victory. Vance was elected governor, all the amendments were passed, and Democrats once again were in control.



Before the impeachment verdict was announced, Governor Holden left the state to avoid being arrested.



It's Your Turn

1. What was the purpose of the Black Codes?
2. How did universal manhood suffrage differ from free suffrage?
3. How did the Ku Klux Klan intimidate black voters?
4. Why was Governor Holden impeached?

Above: Lieutenant Governor Tod R. Caldwell of Burke County became governor when William Holden was removed. Caldwell was elected governor in his own right in 1872.

special Feature

Carolina People When Did Henry Berry Lowry Die?

Folks in Robeson County sometimes tell a tall tale about a miracle that once happened in their midst. A man came to his family's and friends' funerals even after he himself was buried. The real fate of Henry Berry Lowry is still debated among the Lumbee in the southeastern part of the state.

Lowry was descended from several of the original Lumbee families. His ancestors had gradually lost their land to disputes and lawsuits with white neighbors. At the time of the Civil War, Lumbee men were forced to go to Wilmington to help build defenses for the Confederacy. Many Lumbee, including Henry, became outliers, hiding in the swamps near the Lumber River to escape being conscripted into the Confederacy. The Lowry Gang that developed in the swamps was led by Henry's brother William. After Henry had murdered two Confederate officials, William and other family members were executed.

When the Civil War ended, the conflict continued in Robeson County. Former Confederate officers arrested Henry on his wedding day to Rhoda Strong, but he escaped when his wife slipped him a pistol to get out of the Wilmington jail. Despite being an outlaw, Henry and his friends successfully eluded capture for three years, robbing families of means to give food and other provisions to Lumbee people, freedmen, and poor whites who needed them. Each time, they were said to be courteous and polite. They never stole everything a family had but always left enough food and clothing for their victims to live in the same manner as their poorer neighbors. Once, Henry became so bold that he walked up on his pursuers while they were resting in the swamp, talked to them awhile, then left before they realized who he was.

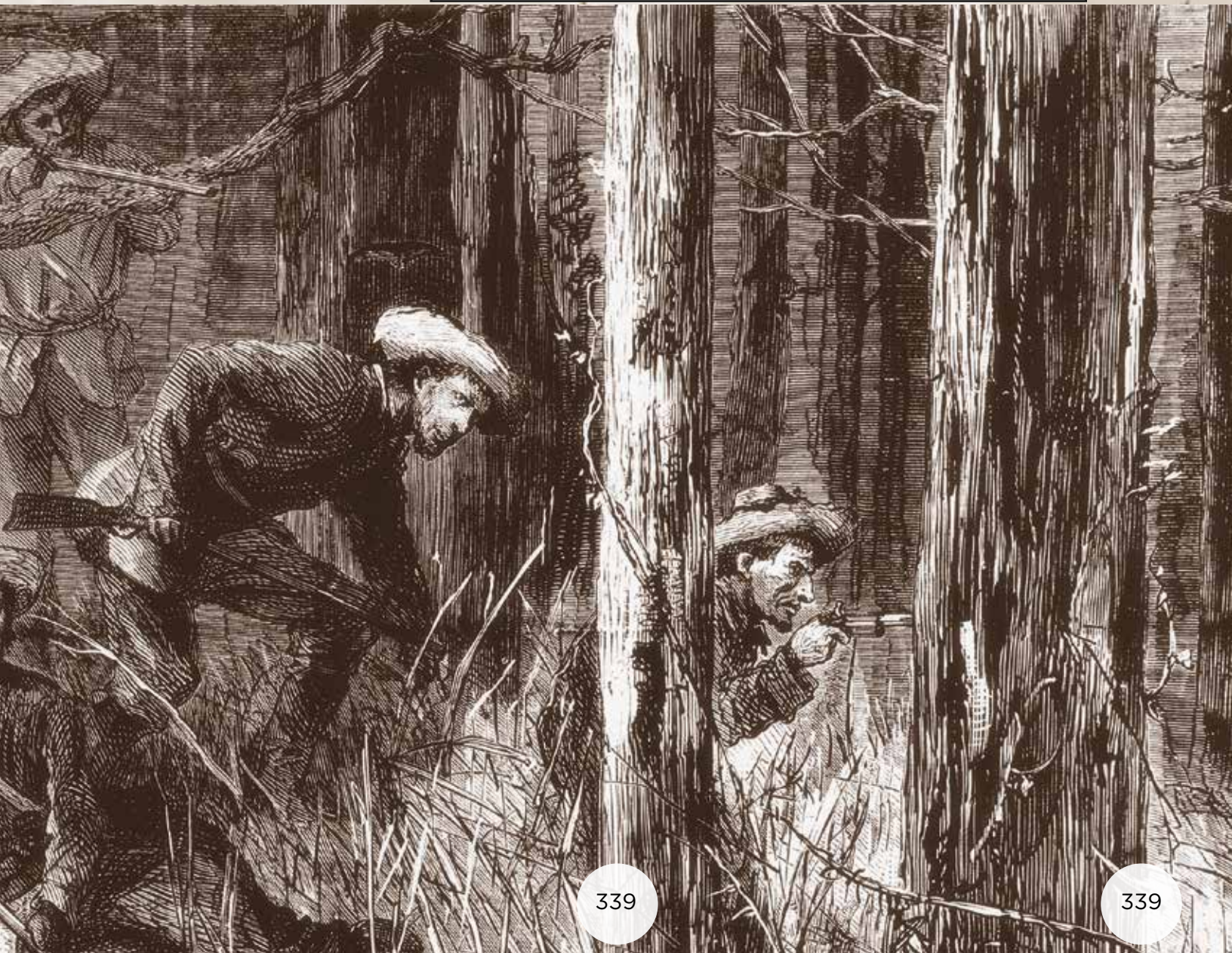




Because Henry thought the election of Republicans in 1868 would mean he would be pardoned, he surrendered. However, his former enemies tried to murder him, and he escaped the second time. North Carolina officials then launched one of the biggest manhunts in U.S. history to find Henry and his new gang. Eventually, most of the gang was killed or fled for their lives to other states.

In 1872, Henry disappeared. Although a family member claimed to have viewed his body, no one has ever located his grave. One story said that he had died accidentally when he slipped and shot himself. Another story claimed that he boarded a train with Union soldiers and rode away to Raleigh. It was said he even joined the United States Army. In fact, rumors came back to North Carolina that Henry was the unidentified leader of an Indian rebellion in California, or he was in the Dakotas, or he was living in Atlanta. More than once, he was supposedly seen back around the Pembroke area.

For a time, Henry Lowry was as notorious as the other famous outlaw of the 1870s, Jesse James. To this day, no one is quite certain when, where, or how Henry B. Lowry died.



Section 5

African Americans during Reconstruction

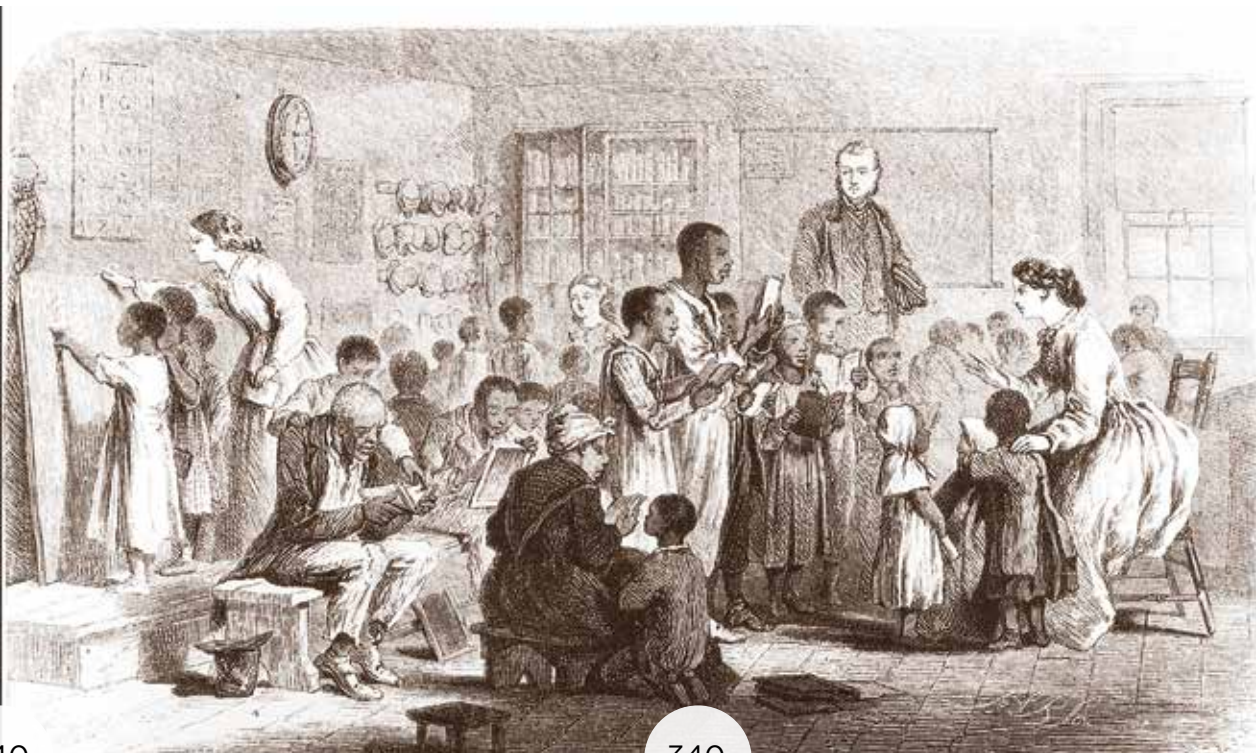
As you read, look for

- ▶ how the freedmen lived;
- ▶ the rise of independent black churches and equal rights organizations;
- ▶ the growth of the sharecropper system;
- ▶ terms: **Freedmen's Bureau**, **sharecropping**.


 Setting a Purpose

Below: Scores of northern teachers came to North Carolina after the war to teach the freedmen. One of the early schools operated at James City, south of New Bern.

After the Civil War, African Americans across North Carolina were freed. Many celebrated with massive parades in Raleigh and New Bern on July 4, 1865. For a time, thousands lived in refugee camps run by the Union army. They took up jobs wherever someone hired them. The passage of the Black Codes, however, restricted the freedmen in new ways. Most had to sign annual labor contracts that restricted where they could go, what they could do, and how much they made. Some were even whipped, just like they had been under slavery. Blacks in prison could be rented out for work.



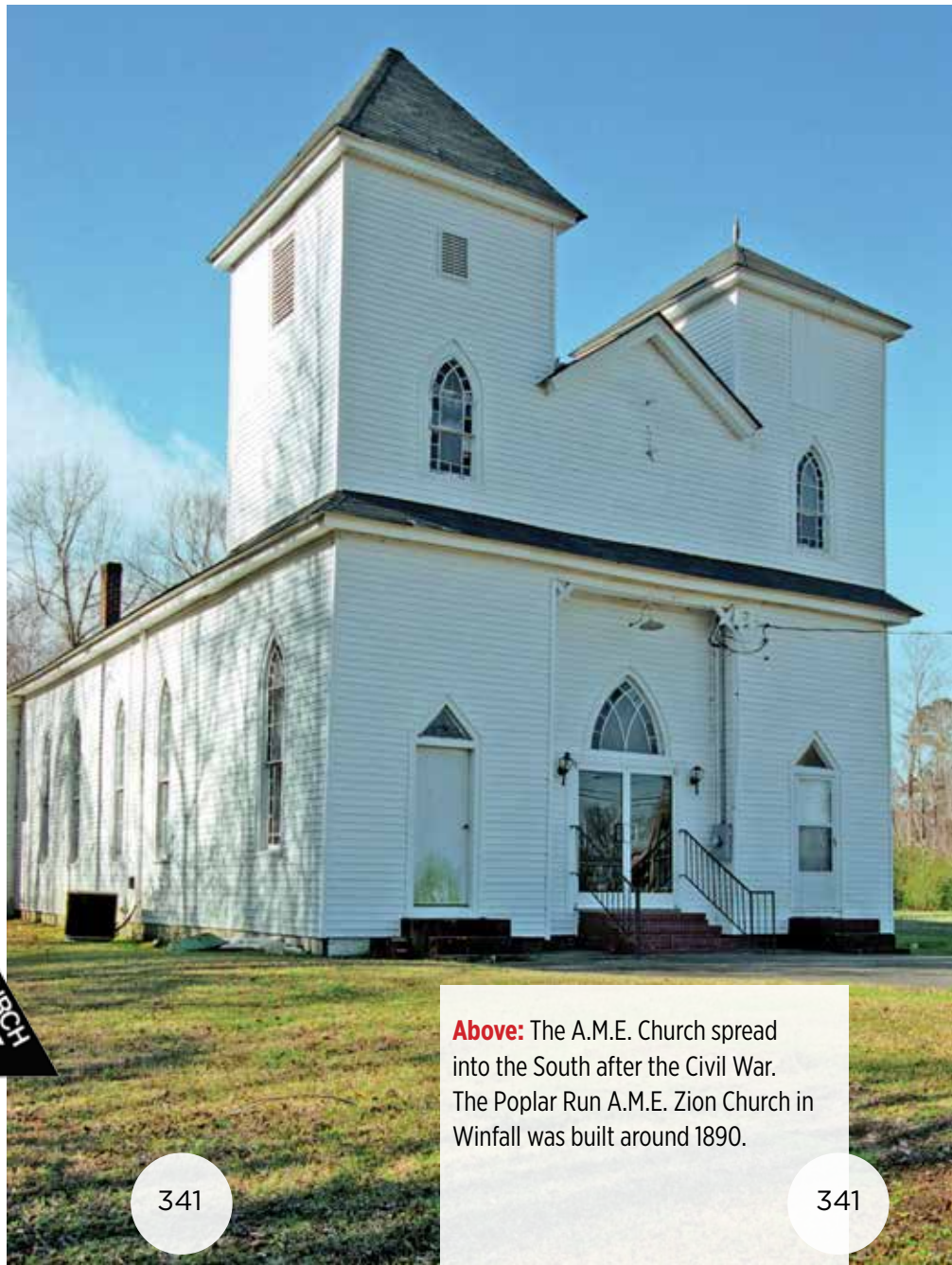
Because the Black Codes kept them in a form of slavery, African Americans actively sought to gain their rights. Freedmen from sixty-one counties held a convention in Raleigh in the fall of 1865 to protest restrictions on their citizenship rights. They established the North Carolina Equal Rights League to advance their interests. Later, they formed an education association to build schools and worked through the Freedmen's Bureau to operate them. The **Freedmen's Bureau** was a federal agency set up by Congress in 1865 to provide food, clothing, shelter, and education for the former slaves.

An independent black church life was also begun. The African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church was organized in the state. By 1869, there were more than fifty black ministers serving the denomination. Across the state, blacks who had attended white churches as slaves began to leave and form their own congregations. Hundreds were established by 1870. Ministers quickly assumed an important role in leading the freedman communities. The leader of the A.M.E. Zion Church, the Reverend J. W. Hood, was one of the authors of the 1868 state constitution.

African Americans often formed their organizations and institutions in the face of great opposition. White citizens in Statesville opposed the founding of a black school in 1867, even though blacks were going to pay for it themselves. Whites in Magnolia threatened to burn down the first black school in their town. In other places, matters went better. Some rich planters in Lincoln County paid for two schools in 1867, one for white children, the other for the children of their former slaves.



The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was founded in 1796 in New York City. Today it has 1.4 million members. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was formally organized in 1816 in Philadelphia. Today, it has over 3.5 million members. Since 2012, the two churches, along with the United Methodist Church and some other Methodist Churches, are in full communion with one another.



Above: The A.M.E. Church spread into the South after the Civil War. The Poplar Run A.M.E. Zion Church in Winfall was built around 1890.



Above: John Adams Hyman was elected state senator for six years. In 1874, he became the state's first African American representative in Congress.

Below: This two-story slave apartment at Stagville housed sharecroppers after the Civil War.

African Americans as Republicans

To gain better rights, black leaders became active in the Republican Party once it was established in 1867. When twenty black representatives were elected in 1868, one freedman said, "Our status is settled. We are men."

Counties in the east where blacks were a majority always sent black representatives to Raleigh during Reconstruction. One, John A. Hyman of Warren County, had been sold and sent to Alabama while a slave but had returned to North Carolina to become a grocer. In the legislature, black representatives continually tried to advance the interests of blacks struggling to get over slavery. For example, black legislators suggested that trial juries be set up in proportion to the racial makeup of a county. If, for example, a third of the people were black, then four of the twelve jurors should be black. This law did not pass, but the black legislators never stopped trying.

Despite the terrorism of the Klan, black justices of the peace held courts and did their duties until the convention of 1875 gave the legislature the power to replace them with whites. Even after the Conservatives took power in 1876, blacks continued to be elected to the legislature, since the Fifteenth Amendment protected their voting rights.



The Rise of Sharecropping

Most freedmen never had the time or opportunity to participate in public life. They had to struggle to overcome the problems left over from slavery and still make a living for themselves and their families. Often, the local leaders for the black community had been free before the war and had a head start on prosperity and reputation. Former field hands had to start from scratch.

Many former slaves had to take work where they could get it. Often they moved to towns like Monroe or Tarboro to find work in stores and shops. Many more worked for white farmers as hired hands doing whatever tasks they were assigned. Because this was too much like the old days, thousands of black men quickly tried to rent land and farm on their own. Since cash was scarce after the war, the landowner and the renter often split the proceeds from selling the crop raised on the rented land. The arrangement came to be called **sharecropping**. Most North Carolina black families quickly became sharecroppers during Reconstruction.

Sharecropping made sense, given the times, but it had drawbacks. Both the landowner and the sharecropper gambled that there would be a crop to sell at harvest, but the owner got the money first. If the rent took all the profits, then the sharecropper got nothing that year. Plus, most sharecroppers had to borrow money to pay for seeds and other supplies during the farm year; often, they could not pay all their bills. It was difficult, then, to ever escape the debt payments year after year since the interest rate was high. Many black families did little more than get by. In some counties of the east, black sharecroppers were the majority of the farmers by the 1870s.

It's Your Turn

1. What was the purpose of the Freedmen's Bureau?
2. Why did many freedmen become sharecroppers after the war?



Above: For many blacks in the late 1800s, sharecropping was not much different than slavery.

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

Section 1: Sectionalism and Secession

- Initially, more citizens of North Carolina spoke out against slavery than citizens of any other southern state. But after 1830, most North Carolinians strongly supported slavery.
- After Lincoln's election in 1860, North Carolina reluctantly joined the Confederate States of America in May 1861. Then it suffered some of the greatest losses of any southern state.

Section 2: Sticking with the Confederacy

- Confederate blockade runners used North Carolina's coast to bring needed supplies to the South.
- The largest battle fought in the state was at Bentonville in March 1865.

Section 3: Conflicts on the Home Front

- Price gouging and inflation caused conflicts throughout the state, including "flour riots" in Salisbury and High Point.
- Outliers often fought skirmishes against members of the Home Guard, especially in western North Carolina.
- North Carolina had the most active Peace Movement in the South.

Section 4: Reconstruction in the State

- During Reconstruction, southern states enacted Black Codes that restricted the rights of freedmen. Congress reinstated a military occupation of the South.
- William W. Holden organized the Republican Party in the state and saw to it that a new constitution was written. North Carolina was

restored to the Union in July 1868.

- Conservatives, led by Zebulon Vance, fought against Holden's reforms. They ultimately used violence and intimidation to regain control of the state.

Section 5: African Americans during Reconstruction

- African American leaders became active in the Republican Party after it was established in 1867.
- Many freedmen became sharecroppers after the Civil War.

Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Match the following with the correct description that follows.

abolitionists	Black Codes
carpetbaggers	freedmen
William W. Holden	Ku Klux Klan
naval blockade	Zebulon B. Vance

- name given to northerners who came south to gain fortune and power
- laws that restricted freedoms of newly freed slaves
- strategy used to keep the South from importing or exporting goods and supplies
- North Carolina governor who fought against the Klan during Reconstruction
- people who wanted to end slavery
- governor of North Carolina during part of the Civil War
- name given to slaves after the passage of the 13th Amendment
- hate group that was prevalent in North Carolina during Reconstruction

Understanding the Facts

1. Why were westerners less supportive of slavery than easterners?
2. Why did most North Carolinians strongly support slavery after 1830?
3. How did North Carolina's coastline turn into a southern advantage during the Civil War?
4. What two groups tried to avoid fighting for the Confederacy?
5. How did the Black Codes affect Reconstruction?
6. Name three major provisions of the state constitution of 1868.
7. How did the terrorist tactics of the Ku Klux Klan influence the 1870 legislative election?
8. Why did most freedmen not have the time or opportunity to participate in public life?

Developing Critical Thinking

1. Why was it so important to most North Carolinians to defend slavery during the late 1850s?
2. In what way do you think North Carolina's divided loyalties during the Civil War helped the Union win the war?
3. How did voting change after 1868, and how did that change affect the elected politicians in North Carolina?

Applying Your Skills

1. Draw a circle graph showing the total number of troops provided by North Carolina for the Confederacy compared to those supplied by the rest of the southern states. Conduct research to determine actual numbers supplied by the other states.
2. If North Carolina provided more than 125,000 troops to the Confederacy, about how many troops were in the Confederate army? (Use the data from the previous activity to help find the answer.)

Exploring Technology

1. Go to website www.rootsweb.com/~ncccha/memoranda/kirkholdenwar.html about the Kirk-Holden War. Using information from the website, explain why Governor Holden was impeached and what significance that action had on North Carolina politics at the time.
2. Visit the website http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/emancipa.asp and read the entire text of the Emancipation Proclamation. Note the exceptions that are included in the Proclamation. Why were these exceptions made?

Writing across the Curriculum

1. Write a newspaper article describing the role of North Carolina troops in "one of the greatest mistakes of the Civil War."
2. Assume you are a North Carolina farm wife whose husband was conscripted during the Civil War. Write a journal entry describing the day-to-day hardships you face.

Encountering Diversity

How did advocates of slavery make it difficult for abolitionists like Hinton Rowan Helper, the Wesleyans in Randolph County, and Benjamin Hedrick to live peacefully in North Carolina?