

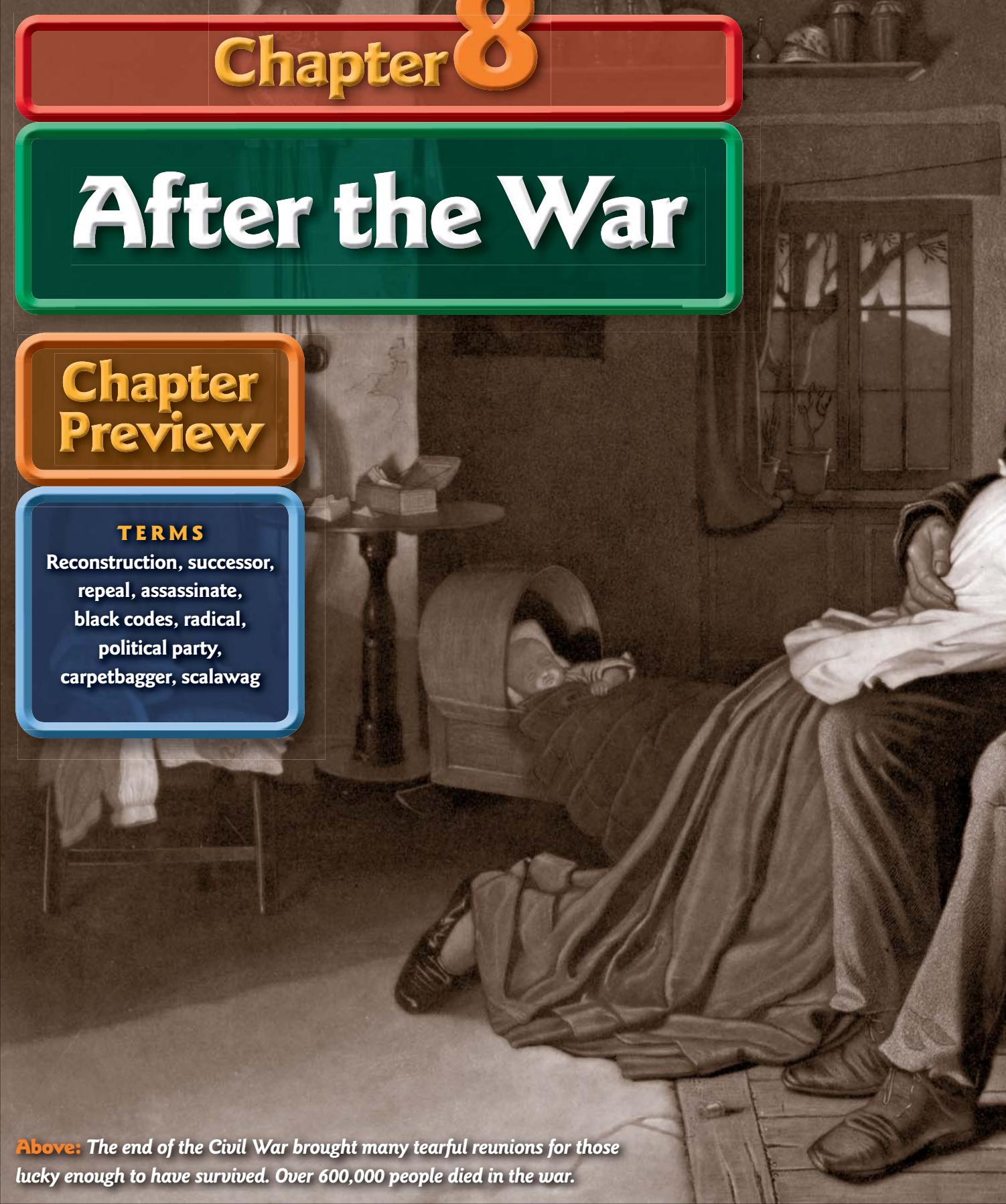
Chapter 8

After the War

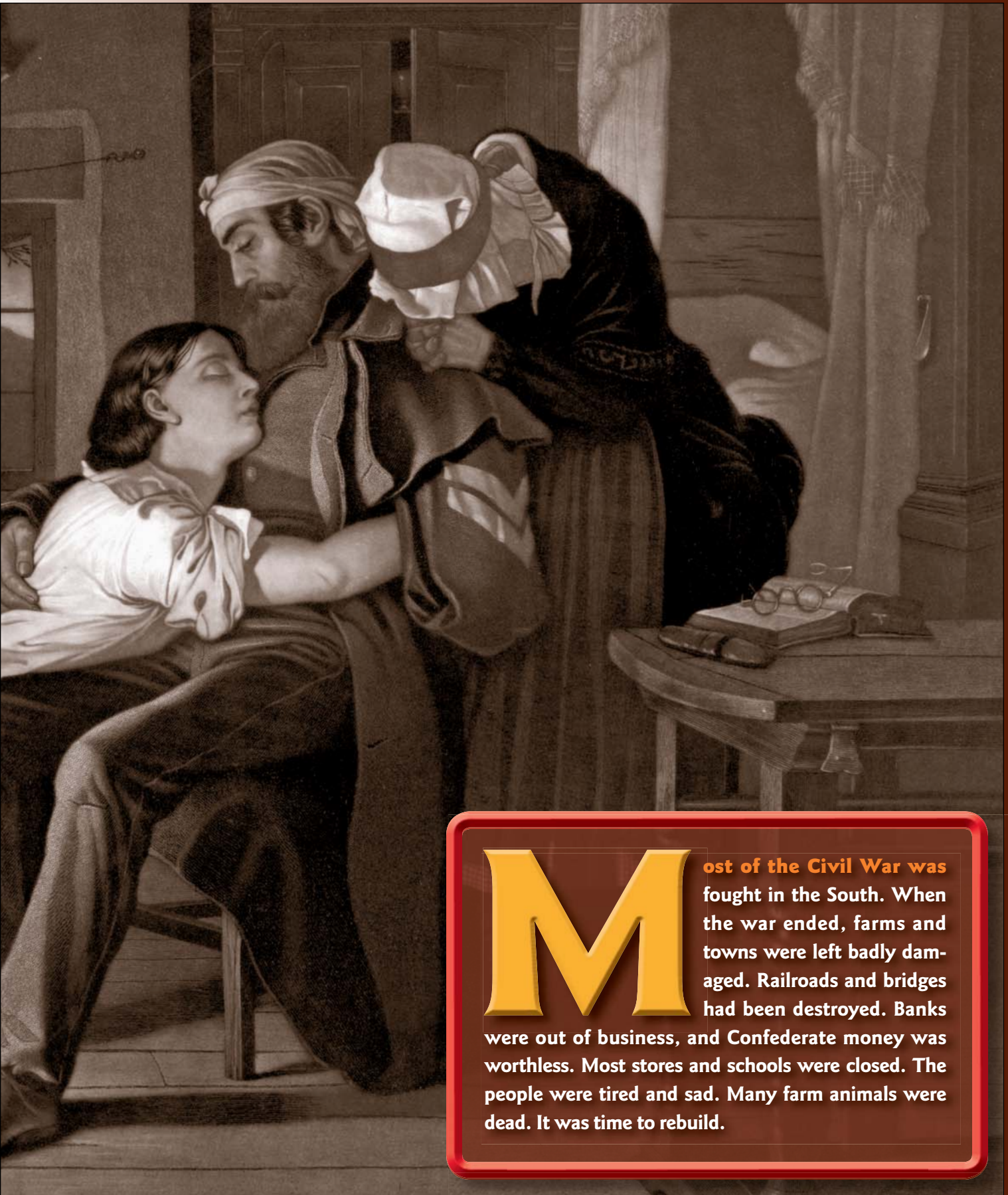
Chapter Preview

TERMS

Reconstruction, successor, repeal, assassinate, black codes, radical, political party, carpetbagger, scalawag



Above: The end of the Civil War brought many tearful reunions for those lucky enough to have survived. Over 600,000 people died in the war.



M

ost of the Civil War was fought in the South. When the war ended, farms and towns were left badly damaged. Railroads and bridges had been destroyed. Banks were out of business, and Confederate money was worthless. Most stores and schools were closed. The people were tired and sad. Many farm animals were dead. It was time to rebuild.

Focus on Reading Skills

Analyzing Illustrations

Learning

The illustrations—drawings, paintings, photographs—that appear in this book can tell you many things about the history of Alabama and the United States. Sometimes illustrations are better than words because they show you something. Pictures can give you information about the houses people lived in, the tools they used, and the clothes they wore. From a picture, you can learn about the work people did. You can see things about their communities and governments. Pictures can put a face with a name and make a book more interesting. Look at the pictures in this chapter. Then use the following steps to gather information from each one.

Practicing

1. Look at the illustration to get a general sense of what the subject is about.
2. If there is one, read the caption that goes with the illustration.
3. Was the picture made during the period of time it represents or at a later time? For example, were the uniformed men in the picture real soldiers or just men wearing costumes?
4. Try to decide if the illustration is posed or candid (not posed).
5. Ask yourself how the figures in the picture fit into the topics in this chapter.



Section I

Reconstruction in the South

As you read, look for

- what happened after Lincoln’s assassination;
- why the Freedmen’s Bureau was formed;
- what military rule meant;
- Alabama’s return to the Union;
- terms: **Reconstruction, successor, repeal, assassinate, black codes, radical, political party.**

The time after the Civil War is called **Reconstruction**, which means “building again.” The United States made the defeated Confederate states form new governments. The Union would

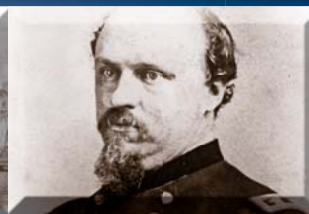
Figure 17 Timeline: 1865 to 1880



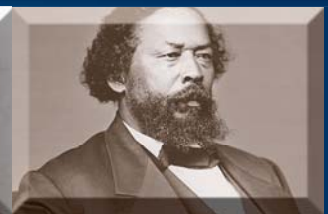
1867
Military rule began in Alabama



1868
Alabama readmitted to the Union



1870
First Alabama black person elected to U.S. Congress



1877
The last federal troops left the state

1865

1865
Civil War ended
Freedmen’s Bureau established
President Lincoln assassinated

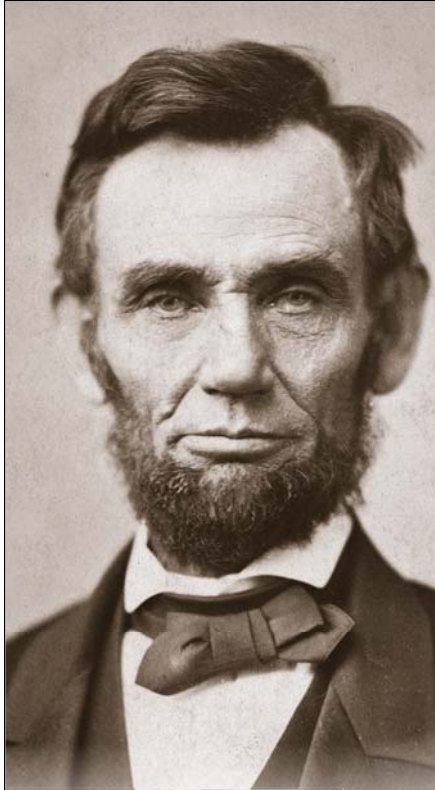
1870

1868
Ulysses S. Grant elected president

1875

1876
Rutherford Hayes elected president

1880



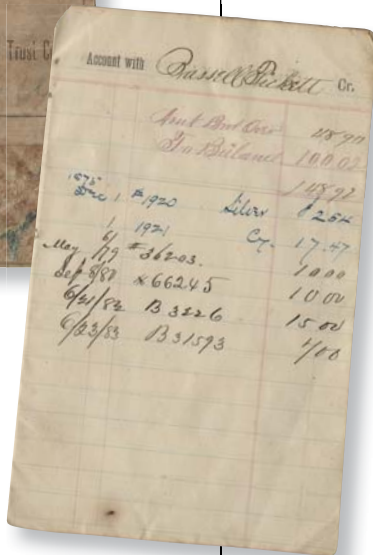
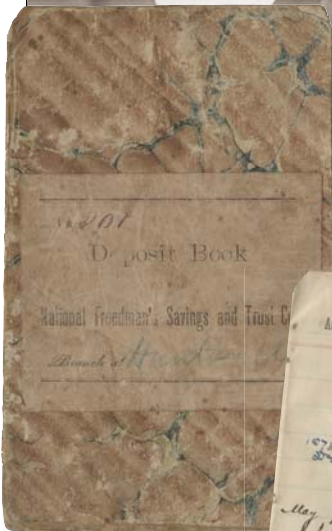
then readmit the states. During the last months of the Civil War, President Lincoln made plans to bring the country back together.

Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan

The plan supported by President Lincoln and his **successor** (one who follows), President Johnson:

- Southerners would take an oath of loyalty to the United States. The state would be readmitted to the Union when 10 percent of the voters took the oath.
- Some high-ranking Confederate government and military leaders would not be allowed to take the oath.
- The new government would ratify the **13th Amendment**. That amendment was passed by the Congress on January 31, 1865. It outlawed slavery in all parts of the United States.
- Each state would be required to **repeal** (cancel) the Ordinance of Secession.

President Lincoln was **assassinated** (killed) before he could carry out his plan. The president and Mrs. Lincoln attended a play at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. While the president was sitting in a box seat, John Wilkes Booth, an actor, entered and shot the president from behind. Booth jumped to the stage, breaking his leg. Lincoln died the next morning.



Top: Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865. Right: This deposit book is from the Huntsville branch of the National Freedman's Savings and Trust Company.

Freedmen and the Freedmen's Bureau

When the Civil War was over, all of the slaves were free. They could no longer be bought or sold. Families could stay together. They could live and work anywhere. Being free also meant that they must find jobs and a place to live. Laws called **black codes** were passed to limit the freedom of African Americans. Many of the laws were written to make the former slaves work on plantations again.

The former slaves were called freedmen. In March 1865, the federal government set up the Freedmen's Bureau to help them. This was during the war and before Lincoln's death. The United States was sure it would win the war and knew the freed slaves would need help. The bureau gave food to thousands of hungry people. It brought in teachers



who opened schools to help freedmen learn to read and write. The bureau tried to find jobs for those who needed them. It offered services in the South until 1874.

A New President

When Lincoln died, Vice President Andrew Johnson became president. Johnson wanted to follow Lincoln's plan for bringing the South back into the Union. The president belonged to the Republican Party. It outnumbered the Democratic Party in the U.S. Congress. Most of the Republicans were called Moderates. The Moderates agreed with President Johnson.

But some of the Republicans in Congress did not like the presidential plan. They thought it did not ensure freedom and citizenship to the freed slaves. This group of congressmen wanted to make it much harder for the Southern states to get back into the Union. This group was called the Radical Republicans. (**Radical** means having extreme or very strong views.)

Before Alabama seceded from the Union, there were four main political parties. (A **political party** is a group of people



Top: Freedmen's schools taught people of all ages. **Above:** Andrew Johnson worked as a tailor in Mooresville before starting his political career.



About Alabama

George Houston was against secession before the Civil War. He was governor from 1874 to 1878. Houston helped lead the state out of Reconstruction.

Right: Reconstruction was a period of great change for many freed slaves. Some chose to continue working for their former masters.

who agree on how to run a state or country.) All of these parties mainly focused on slavery. Some were for slavery, while others were against it. The parties argued over allowing slavery in the western territories. Then the war was over, and the **13th Amendment** passed. With slavery ended, political parties had new problems to solve.

There were then two main parties in Alabama, Republicans and Democrats. Generally, Moderate Republicans were for full rights for black people. Democrats were for limited rights for blacks.

Making a new government for Alabama was not easy after the war. The federal government was in charge. They gave orders (laws) that the Alabama government had to obey. People had to rebuild their lives. They also had to make decisions about what kind of government and laws they needed. Sometimes they made wrong decisions.

Reconstruction in Alabama

Alabama had almost no state government in the spring of 1865. In June, President Johnson named Lewis Parsons governor of Alabama. Governor Parsons called a constitutional convention that met in September. Voters elected delegates who agreed to end slavery. But they did not give freedmen the right to vote.

State and local government officials were elected in early November. Later that month, state officers ratified the **13th Amendment** to the United States Constitution. It outlawed slavery in all parts of the United States.



Alabama Portrait

Maria Fearing

Maria Fearing was born to slave parents in 1838. Her family lived and worked on the Winston plantation near Gainesville. Because she was a slave, Maria was not allowed to go to school.

Maria worked in the plantation home. On Sunday afternoons, Mrs. Winston read the Bible to her own children and the slave children. She told them of children around the world who had never heard of the Bible. Maria most liked to hear about African children.

As Maria grew older, she attended the same church as the Winston family. After the Civil War, Maria and her family were freed.

While working as a maid in Gainesville, Maria tried to teach herself to read and write. She needed help, though. A new minister told her about a school in Talladega. He said that poor people could work their way through school there.

Fearing took all the money she had and bought a train ticket to Talladega. At age 33, she started in the first grade. It took her only a few years to finish the ninth grade and become a teacher.

A missionary from Africa spoke in her church about the need for workers there. Fearing, now 56 years old, wanted to go to Africa to help. But church leaders would not pay her travel costs because they thought she was too old. So she sold her house and paid her own way.

It took her less than a year to learn the African language. She discovered some children who



had been stolen by other Africans. The children were going to be sold as slaves. To stop that, she traded beads, scissors, soap, or salt for the children. She took them in and cared for them in her home. When Fearing had between 40 and 50 children, she started a school.

Fearing used her teaching skills to help the children learn to read, write, and work arithmetic. They studied the Bible and learned to do tasks in and around the home.

Maria Fearing stayed in Africa until she was 80 years old. She died in 1937 after living almost 100 years.



Above: *General Wager Swayne was the military governor of the Third Military District, which included Alabama.*

Robert Miller Patton served as governor of Alabama from December 1865 until March 1867. There were 99 delegates elected to state government. They were not elected as members of any political party. However, 45 of the delegates had been Whigs before the Civil War. The group was split. The 63 delegates from south Alabama had been for secession. The other 36 were unionists from north Alabama. They had been against secession.

Alabama under Military Rule

The Radical Republicans thought that President Johnson's Reconstruction plan was not harsh enough. They wanted to do more to guarantee voting rights for freedmen. To do this, Congress decided to put the Southern states under military rule. The U.S. lawmakers passed the first Reconstruction Act in March 1867. This act divided the South into five military districts. Alabama was part of the Third Military District. General Wager Swayne was its military governor. The Reconstruction Act had several requirements.

- The state had to write a new constitution. The authors had to include both black and white citizens. These people could not be former government leaders or have served in the Confederate military.
- The constitution had to be approved by the United States Congress.
- The state was required to ratify the **14th Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution. This amendment gave freedmen full rights as citizens.

When these things were done, the soldiers would leave and Alabama would be readmitted to the United States.

Think It Through!

1. What was the process of rebuilding the South called?
2. What government group was set up to help the freed slaves?
3. Why was the Lincoln/Johnson plan for rebuilding not followed?
4. What did the Reconstruction Act of 1867 do?

Section 2

Alabama Rejoins the Union

As you read, look for

- the first blacks elected to office;
- who were carpetbaggers and scalawags;
- why the Ku Klux Klan was formed;
- how military rule ended;
- terms: **carpetbagger**, **scalawag**.

Delegates were elected in November 1867 to write a new state constitution that Congress would accept. This was the first time in Alabama that blacks and whites had worked together in government. The Constitution of 1868 led to the readmission of Alabama to the United States. It also took away the right to vote from about 40,000 former Confederates in the state.

Alabama ratified the **14th Amendment** in July 1868. The state could once again elect members to the United States Congress.

Alabama Blacks Elected to U.S. Congress

The U.S. Congress was disappointed in the progress of rights for African Americans. They passed the **15th Amendment**, which was ratified in 1870. It gave freedmen the right to vote. But women of all races still could not vote.

Elections for the U.S. Congress were held. New voters brought new results. Alabama sent three black men to the U.S. House of Representatives during Reconstruction. They were Benjamin Sterling Turner, Jeremiah Haralson, and James Thomas Rapier. All of them were Republicans.

About Alabama

The first meeting of the Alabama Republican Party was in June 1867. This party had both black and white members and wanted an end to racial unfairness. They also wanted free speech, free press, and public education.



Above right: Benjamin S. Turner was the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Alabama. Above: Jeremiah Haralson served in both houses of the Alabama state legislature. He was later elected to one term in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Benjamin Sterling Turner

Benjamin Sterling Turner was born a slave in North Carolina. He moved to Alabama in 1829 at the age of four. In 1848, his home was in Dallas County. Turner somehow learned to read and write. He was moved from field work to a job in the planter's house. Turner helped manage his owner's hotel in Selma. He later had a livery (horse rental) stable of his own. He became the richest black man in the county.

Turner was elected to the Selma City Council during the early part of Reconstruction. He was a county tax collector before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Turner was a representative from 1871 to 1873. In an 1872 speech in Selma, he said:

I have no coals of fiery reproach to heap upon them [people who had served the Confederacy]. Rather I extend to them the olive branch of peace and say, "Let the past be forgotten and let us all from every sun and every clime of every hue, every shade, go to work peacefully to build up the shattered temples of this great and glorious republic."

Jeremiah Haralson

Jeremiah Haralson was born a slave in Georgia. After being freed, he moved to Dallas County, Alabama. Haralson served

in the state legislature and was elected for one term to the U.S. House of Representatives (1875-1877). Radical Republicans did not like Haralson because he wanted to pay the South for damage to property. He also wanted the former Confederates pardoned and federal troops taken out of Alabama.

James Thomas Rapier

James Thomas Rapier was the son of a wealthy, free black businessman in Florence. He went to private schools in Nashville, Tennessee, and Canada. Rapier became a lawyer. After the Civil War, he stopped practicing law to become one of the best farmers in the Tennessee River Valley. Rapier was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served from 1873 to 1875.

Carpetbaggers and Scalawags

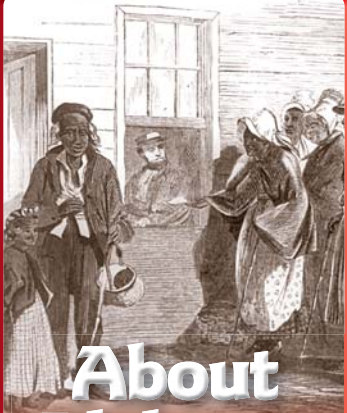
At this time, many Southerners disliked two groups of white people. These people were called “carpetbaggers” and “scalawags.” **Carpetbaggers** got their name because they came from the North carrying their clothes in suitcases made of carpet-like cloth. Some carpetbaggers came to help Alabamians and other Southerners. Others came to make money or to run for political offices.

Scalawags were white Southerners who worked with the military government. They helped run the state government as the U.S. Congress wanted it run. Many were unionists who had opposed secession in 1861. Some fought for the Union in the Civil War. The scalawags were more disliked than the carpetbaggers. Many people felt that scalawags were taking advantage of their own neighbors. Like the carpetbaggers, some were honest and tried to be good leaders. Others helped only themselves.

Ku Klux Klan

It was hard for many white Southerners to accept carpetbaggers, scalawags, and blacks in government offices. Some of them formed secret groups to fight against the changes. The Ku Klux Klan was the best known of these groups.

Ku Klux comes from a Greek word that means “a circle.” When the Klan met, its members wore white robes and hoods and stood in a circle. They rode on horseback in groups at night to scare white Republicans and blacks. They wanted these people to be afraid to vote. When the Klan could not frighten people into



About Alabama

The Freedmen's Bureau helped many Alabamians during Reconstruction. In 1866, the Bureau gave food to over 33,000 people—black and white, unionist and Confederate—in the state.



Above: *The Ku Klux Klan used fear, threats, and violence to keep white Republicans and blacks from voting and running for office.*

doing what they wanted, they sometimes beat or killed them.

Most Alabamians did not like what the Klan did. However, little was done to stop the Klan until 1870. That year, the United States Congress passed a law to stop the Klan. The U.S. military government carried out the law, and most Klan actions stopped. Although the Klan lost members, it continued to operate.

The End of Military Rule

The U.S. Congress began to lose interest in reconstructing the South. In 1872, Congress passed a law to allow former Confederates to vote. This law added 40,000 men to the state's voter list.

The first election allowing former Confederates to vote was in 1874. In that election, Alabamians defeated carpetbaggers and scalawags. George Smith Houston, a Democrat, was elected governor. Voters also elected more Democrats than Republicans to the state legislature. Reconstruction in Alabama was over.

The remaining federal soldiers left Alabama in March 1877. This meant the carpetbaggers and scalawags had little protection. Most carpetbaggers left the state, and scalawags lost their power.

White Alabama Democrats were once again in charge of the state government. They were in the majority. Alabama would be a 1-party state for over 90 years.

Think It Through!

- 1.** When was the first time in Alabama that blacks and whites worked together in government?
- 2.** What were white people who helped the military government called?
- 3.** What secret group frightened people to keep them from voting?
- 4.** Former Confederates were not allowed to vote after the war ended. How long was it before they regained the right to vote?

Focus on Geography

Migration after the Civil War

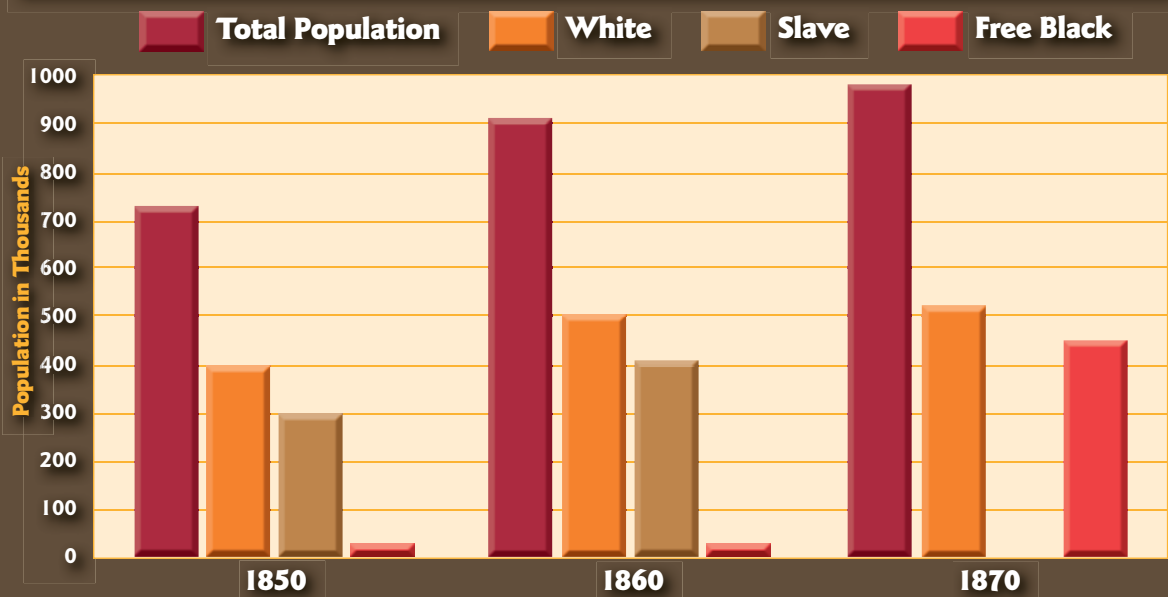
There was some migration from Alabama after the Civil War. A small group of former Confederates and their families moved to Brazil in South America. A number of African Americans from Alabama had served in the Union army. Some of these soldiers did not return to the state after the war. However, the largest migrations were within the state.

With freedom, most former slaves celebrated by leaving the plantations. At first, they went

to the cities. Between 1860 and 1870, the black populations of Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Selma (the four largest Alabama cities) increased by more than 50 percent.

Why were the cities so appealing? The freedmen felt safer and had better living conditions there. The cities were also exciting places to be. Federal troops protected the newly freed slaves. And the Freedmen's Bureau was there to provide food, health care, and education.

Figure 18 Alabama Population 1850 to 1870



Source: Historical Statistics of the States of the United States

Chapter Review

Chapter Summary

The time after the Civil War is called Reconstruction. States of the defeated Confederacy had to do certain things before they could return to the Union.

The Freedmen's Bureau was set up to help former slaves get food and find jobs. It also set up schools to teach the freedmen to read and write. Alabama was under military rule. This was in place until the state met the requirements to rejoin the Union.

Alabama was readmitted to the Union in 1868. In the next few years, the state elected three black men to the U.S. House of Representatives.

By 1877, the federal soldiers were gone. Alabama was in charge of its state government again.



Remember

On a separate sheet of paper, define the following terms:

1. Assassinate
2. Political party
3. Reconstruction
4. Repeal
5. Successor



Reviewing the Facts

1. Who decided to put the Southern states under military rule?
2. Who was president of the United States at the end of the Civil War?
3. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawed slavery? Which amendment made freed slaves American citizens?

4. Who assassinated President Lincoln?
5. What right did the Constitution of 1868 take away from former Confederates?



Using Critical Thinking Skills

1. Lincoln and Johnson had their plans for Reconstruction. Some Republicans had other plans. What do you think should have been done after the war to make a new government fair to all?
2. If money was worthless, how would you do business?



Making Decisions

1. If you *had* to choose between being a carpetbagger or a scalawag, which would you choose? Why?
2. Some people left Alabama after the Civil War. Would you have left? If you decided to leave, where would you have gone to live? Give reasons. If you decided to stay, give reasons.



Project

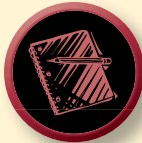
Some Alabamians, white and black, left the state after the Civil War. They had different reasons for leaving, but all wanted to start a new life somewhere else. Draw or make a map of the United States showing Alabama. Draw lines with arrows showing the migration out of Alabama through the Port of Mobile. Draw other arrows from rural areas on plantations to the larger cities (Mobile, Bir-

mingham, Huntsville, Selma). You do not have to be exact where the lines start because people from all over were moving to new homes.



Writing

Write a newspaper article about the assassination of President Lincoln. Be sure to write a headline for your story.



Preparing for Tests

President Abraham Lincoln attended a play on the night he was assassinated. The document shown is a picture



of Lincoln's play program. Can you find the bloodstains on the program? It is important to know why the document was written and who wrote it. Details are important too. Look over the program and see if you can answer the following questions.

Multiple Choice—These questions are like those you will see in tests. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- Who wrote this play program?
 - The star actor
 - Abraham Lincoln's assistant
 - The theater owner
 - The audience
- Why was the program written?
 - To help historians
 - To entertain the audience
 - To inform the audience about the play
 - To publish in the newspaper
- On which date was President Lincoln shot?
 - April 14, 1865
 - July 4, 1787
 - January 11, 1861
 - April 9, 1865



Using Technology

You are going to practice "reading" a photograph. Go to history-place.com/lincoln/index.html#thanks and scroll down the timeline. Click the picture titled, *The President's Son Tad Poses April 10, 1865.*

Look closely at the picture and answer the following questions.

- How do you think the chains on the president and Tad were used?
- What is the president holding?
- Describe how you think President Lincoln looks. (Think of his health, haircut, smile, any details that you see.)