

## " TIME TABLE TO THE CIVIL WAR "

1787 - United States Constitution: Art.IV. Sec.2. Part 3. 1797 - Invention of the Cotton Gin.

1804 - Louisiana Purchase.

1812 - War of 1812.

1820 - Missouri Compromise or Compromise of 1820. 1831 - Wm. Lloyd Garrison founded "The Liberator". 1832 - Tariff Act passed by Congress.

1833 - Anti-slavery Society Formed.

1840 - Liberty Party Formed.

1846

1848 - Mexican War.

1846 - Wilmot Proviso.

1850 - Compromise of 1850.

- a. Fugitive Slave Act.
- b. Underground Railroad.

1852 -- Harriet Beecher Stowe published "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (Life Among The Lowly)

1854 - Kansas - Nebraska Act.

1857 -- Dredd Scott Case.

1859 - John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry. 1860 - Lincoln Elected President.

1860 - South Carolina Secedes.

by local militia, reinforced by a company of Marines under the command of Robert E. Lee, ten of Brown's men, including two of his sons, were killed, Brown himself was wounded and captured. Arrested and charged with various crimes including treason and murder, he was convicted and hanged December 2, 1859 at Charleston, Virginia. (now West Virginia)

The Final and most *decisive act to infuriate* the South was the election of Abraham Lincoln as President in 1860. Before 1860 many Southern states, especially South Carolina made it clear that if the North gained control of Congress they would secede. Lincoln won the election without carrying any of the Southern States, even though he had pledged himself not to interfere *with* slavery where it existed, but by the same token was known to be convinced that slavery should not spread to the newly acquired territories. Following the election, South Carolina adopted the "Ordinance OF Secession" on December 20, 1860. Within six weeks the states of Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas followed. When Fort Sumter was fired upon on April 12, 1861 and Lincoln called for troops to put down the rebellion, Virginia, Arkansas Tennessee and North Carolina also decided to join the Confederacy.

THE DIE WAS CAST !!

The "War Between the States", as far as all wars fought before and since, had many direct and indirect causes, sparked into actuality by a single event. For the "Civil War" the causes go back to the birth of the Union, ignited by the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States.

In any study of the Civil War, one must bear in mind that each of the original states (colonies) felt it had an importance that surmounted the bond that united them. They were in effect "free and independent" **states** by reason of their victory in the Revolutionary War. John C. Calhoun, South Carolina's great statesman held the feeling that a state could, if it so desired, withdraw from the Union. This feeling was not limited to the Southern States, as Virginia and the immense territory of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin also believed in this doctrine. Secession was not a new concept. In 1814, the New England States talked secession because they felt that the nation was dominated by the South. Thus the dogma of "States Rights". Searing this in mind, one can better understand why many great Americans serving the nation at the start of the rebellion chose to return and fight with their native state in deference to the Union.

States Rights was a doctrine of state sovereignty as well as the strict interpretation of the Federal Constitution that gives to the states all powers not specifically granted to the Central Government.

Needless to say, slavery was the basic problem. How it was handled by members of Congress thru compromises and . different Acts brought the problem to it's final boiling point - "The Civil War". Today it may be hard for us to imagine life as a slave. Yet in the 1700's and 1800's it was common practice. Slavery was not a new concept with The New World, as it was practiced as far back as the Roman

Empire and with cultures beyond. Slaves were introduced in Virginia as early as 1619 by a Dutch ship. Although moral, religious, intellectual and economic opposition to slavery had been raised, the Constitution recognized and protected slavery.

At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, the make-up of the United States was generally agricultural. Slavery existed both in the North and South and was accepted as shown by the inclusion of Article IV, Section 2, Part 3 in the Constitution which stated that "no person held in service or labour in one State, under laws thereof, escaping into another, shall be discharged from such service or labour, but shall be delivered upon claim of the party to whom such service and labour may be due". Basically, what this means is once a slave always a slave. *Slaves had no protection* under the Constitution and were considered chattel property. However eminent leaders from the earliest period of national existence such as Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Jay and Hamilton, considered slavery a great evil and inconsistent with the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Yet the issue was not pressed at that time

as it was felt that slavery would die a natural death. Coming events, however, proved this fallacy false.

Prior to and during the War of 1812, the make-up *of the* country began to change. The North began to become industrialized because with the coming of this war and the ensuing blockade, it became difficult to import finished products from foreign countries, making it necessary for this country to produce essentials hithertofore imported. With the North becoming dependent on industry and commerce slavery was no longer profitable to it, for slaves could not be trained to work in *the factories*. Consequently, following the war immigrants settled in Northern states *where* jobs

were plentiful. Thus, the Northern states grew rapidly in

population, which would prove important towards Northern control of the House of Representatives. The South with the invention of the cotton-gin remained agricultural and found both cotton and slavery profitable.

When Eli Whitney invented the cotton-gin in 1794, a simple device which made it possible for textile mills to use the short staple cotton which Southern states could grow abundantly and cheaply with slave labor, little did he realize what an impact it would have on this newly formed nation. Cotton to the South became "King", and instead of dying a natural death, slavery flourished. Export figures dramatically show how important cotton became. In 1800, the United States exported \$5,000,000 worth of cotton, roughly 7 per-cent of the nations total exports. In 1840, exports totaled \$15,000,000. In 1840, \$63,000,000. By 1860, cotton exports jumped to a staggering figure of \$181,000,000 or about 57 per-cent of the total exports. The Southern cotton producing states employed 3,953,760 slaves considered chattel property worth approximately two billion dollars.

Regardless of how profitable slavery became, it should be justifiably stated that the Southern slave owners were not the only ones to reap the harvest. By disregarding the "Rule or Law of 1808", which prohibited the importation of slaves to the United States, many Northern ship owners and captains continued to import slaves even though the US Navy along with the British Navy stopped ships suspected of carrying illegal slaves. It should be pointed out that some inscrutable captains, seeing they were about to be stopped and searched, simply threw the chained illegal counterband overboard. Census figures bear out how great this illegal traffic became: in 1800 the United States had 893,041 slaves and after 1860, even after the "Law of 1808" was passed, this figure, as previously stated, jumped to a staggering 3,953,760.

The sharp economic division between the industrial North and the agricultural south now took on great political significance, with Congressmen from each section trying to protect their own special interests. With the acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 (President Thomas Jefferson, in his first administration, purchased from France 827,987 square miles of land for 15 million dollars. A vast area from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian Border - eventually all or parts of 15 *states were formed* from this area). In 1818, Maine applied for admission to the Union as a free state. At the time there were eleven free states and eleven slave states - a balance of power. In 1819, the territory of Missouri with a population of 60,000 demanded admission as a slave state. Arkansas was preparing to make a similar demand. Such action would have given the South the balance of power in Congress and the North made this a political issue. The North controlled the House of Representatives and the South the Senate. A deadlock was inevitable, so a party of compromise was formed, the first of many compromises, producing a temporary arrangement acceptable to both parties. This was the "Compromise of 1820, also known as the Missouri Compromise, a national law enacted by Congress on March 6, 1820. dividing the Louisiana Purchase between freedom and slavery by a line drawn at 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, the general boundary between Arkansas and Missouri, except that Missouri would be admitted as a slave state. Future states would be admitted in pairs - one slave and one free.

In 1831, arriving on the scene was William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) an American journalist and reformer who became famous in the 1830's for his denunciation of slavery. Before his time abolitionists had made moderate appeals to slave-holders and legislators on behalf of the slaves. Garrison felt that slavery should be ended

immediately and criticized all who did not *agree with* him. He once said, "I shall strenuously contend for the immediate enfranchisement for our slave population --- I will not equivocate --- I will not excuse --- I will not retreat a single inch and I will be heard". In 1831, at Boston, he started the publication "The Liberator", and thereby began the anti-slavery movement. Also in 1831 he formed "The New England Anti-slavery Society". Later he *organized* "The American Anti-slavery Society". He continued his paper and *society* until the end of the Civil War. Historians agree that Garrison was the most influential abolitionist to arise in the North.

The abolitionists were the extreme section of the antislavery party who advocated the immediate sweeping away by the Federal Government of slavery without regard to Constitutional guarantees, vested rights or political factors. Gradual abolition had been the desire of many of the best men, including some from the South. However, following the War of 1812 and the cotton-gin making the slave system profitable, the new zeal of the South in upholding, increasing and justifying slave labor was met with new intensity in the North. In 1833 "The National Anti-slavery Society" was formed in Philadelphia.

In 1832, Congress added further fuel to the smoldering fire by passing a high "Protective Tariff Act" to protect Northern Industries. New England and the Middle Atlantic *States*, who *were* developing manufacturing, demanded high tariffs on imports so that their budding industries could grow without foreign competition. On the other hand the cotton and tobacco industries of the South opposed the tariff because they found their biggest markets in Europe and wished to buy manufactured goods from foreign countries because they were cheaper and better made. South Carolina believed the tariff unfair and declared it unconstitutional

and almost withdrew from the Union at that time but a compromise tariff act was passed that satisfied the South.

In 1840, a group of dissidents, who had separated themselves from the American Anti-slavery Society, because of that body's opposition to political action, formed the first political party in the United States organized for the abolition of slavery. It was called the "Liberty Party". Politician James G. Birney and poet John Greenleaf Whittier were it's leaders. The Liberty Party nominated Birney for President in 1840 and again in 1844 but made such a poor showing that they met, in 1848, at Buffalo, New York and formed the "Free Soil Party". This party opposed the admission of any new slave state into the Union. Martin

Van Buren became the party's candidate, in 1848, for President with the slogan "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free men". The party did not carry a single state, however, it did elect thirteen candidates to the House of Representatives. Salmon Chase and Charles Sumner won Senate seats. Before the election of 1856 the remnants of the Free Soil Party joined forces with the newly formed Republican Party.

The Mexican War **is** an important episode because as a result vast areas of land became the property of the United States which would become future states. Texas wanted to be part of the United States, however Mexico did not relinquish it's claim. Border disputes developed and finally the United States declared war on May 1846 which lasted until February 1848 when the "Treaty of Hidalgo" was signed. Under the treaty Mexico gave to the United States the land that is now California, Nevada and Utah, most of Arizona and parts of Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. Mexico also recognized Texas down to the Rio Grande as part of the United States, for which Mexico received 15 million dollars. With the Gladson Purchase of 1854, the U.S. paid Mexico 10 million dollars for territory that is now southern

Arizona and New Mexico. Of interest, The Mexican War gave combat training to many officers who later fought in the Civil War, namely: Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, George B. McClellan, George Gordon Meade, Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Jefferson Davis.

While still at war with Mexico, President James K. Polk asked Congress, in August 1846, to appropriate 2 million dollars to negotiate peace and purchase new territory. David Wilmot, a Democratic Representative from Pennsylvania offered an amendment to the bill, called the "Wilmot Proviso", which declared that slavery should be forbidden *in any territory* obtained by the U.S. Government with the monies appropriated. Approved by the House of Representatives which was controlled by the North, refused by the southern controlled Senate. The proviso was offered as an amendment to many other bills. It caused great agitation throughout the country. The principle involved caused long continued controversy that became an important factor in party politics. It finally triumphed through the "Act of June 19, 1862, forbidding slavery in any of the territories of the United States, now existing or which may at anytime hereafter be acquired. It should be noted that passage occurred after the Civil War began and the South no longer had representation in Congress

As tensions between the sections rose, the pressing question facing Congress concerned territories received as a result of the Mexican War. Should they be admitted slave or free? Henry Clay proposed a series of laws that became known as the "Compromise of 1850", hoping to settle the strife between opponents of slavery and slave-owning states. To placate the South, Congress gave to Texas 10 million dollars for its claim to the New Mexico

Territory and set-up a strict Federal Law for the return of run-away slaves - "The Fugitive Slave Act". To satisfy the North, slave trade was abolished in the District of Columbia and California was admitted as a free state. The territory of New Mexico, including what is now Arizona and Utah, was organized but the question of slavery was left for the people in each state to decide.

The "Fugitive Slave Act", a law that called for the return of slaves that escaped for one state to another was originally passed in 1793. By the mid 1800s it was no longer in force, but the Compromise of 1850 revived it and imposed heavy penalties on anyone who interfered with the capture of run-away slaves. Some Northern states, in defiance of the act, passed "Personal Liberties Laws" and even prohibited state and local officials from obeying the Slave Act.

This all brought about the formation of the "Underground Railroad", which was a loosely organized system for transporting run-away slaves to Northern states and Canada. The "station" were generally homes of abolitionists and opponents of slavery. The "conductors" were individuals who would transport the slaves from one station to the next along established routes. This activity was prevalent from the borders of Maryland, Missouri, Delaware, Virginia and Canada. Ohio had many lines and Philadelphia, with its many members of the Society of Friends" was an important center. Actually the railroad was run by idealists who felt that no man should be held in bondage, even though their action deprived the slave owners of legally held and often valuable property.

To further infuriate the bad feeling among the North and South was the publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe an ardent anti-slavery author. It was also called "Life Among the Lowly". This book featuring

it's characters, Uncle Tom, Little Eva, Eliza and Simon Legree played into the hands of the Abolitionists. It was first published as a serial in 1851 in the "National Era" an Abolitionist journal, and in book form in 1852. It depicted the harsh, cruel life endured by slaves at the hands of their Southern owners. Despite many inaccuracies, the book was credited as being one of the most cogent single reason for bringing public opinion to the side of the North. Lincoln is alleged to have said, in reference, to Stowe as the "little lady" who caused the Civil War. Probably not true. Certainly not the singular cause.

In 1854, Congress again tried to resolve the situation, only to muddle the waters more, by passing the "Kansas-Nebraska Act", an act which provided the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska were to be made from Indian land.

It was introduced by Stephen Douglas of Illinois. Douglas included in his bill a provision for "Popular Sovereignty" which stated the question of slavery in the new territories was to be decided by the settlers themselves by popular vote. It was designed to win Southern support. The slavery question was directly contrary to the "Missouri Compromise of 1820" which stated that all land in the Louisiana purchase of 36 degrees, 31 minutes except that the state of Missouri was to be admitted free. The bill was attacked by anti-slavery factions but President Pierce supported it and it became law. Furthermore, it also revived the bitter quarrel over the expansion of slavery.

In 1857, the Supreme Court did not help the situation by its ruling on the Dred Scott case, testing whether a slave moved from a slave to a free state made him in essence a free man. On March 6, 1857, the court made its findings known, stating that Dred Scott, as a negro was not a citizen of the United States within the intent of the Constitution, The Court held that "negroes were regarded

in the Constitution as only chattel property, were not in the word 'people' or 'citizens' in the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Independence or the Constitution, remained in this condition of civil nullity even when emancipated. had no rights except such as each state chose to grant them and could not become citizens capable of suing or being sued". This decision remained law until the passage of the 14th amendment.

Another individual whose action did little to help the situation was John Brown ( 1808-1859 ), often called "Old Brown of Osawatomie". Early in life , Brown acquired his hatred of slavery, which marked his career, from his father who was actively hostile to the institution. In 1843, Brown initiated in Pennsylvania a project among sympathetic abolitionists to educate young negroes. His next 20 years were dedicated to the furtherance of this and similar abolitionist ventures. In 1855, along with five of his sons he went to the Kansas Territory, then the center of

a struggle between anti-slavery and pro-slavery forces. Under his leadership, the Browns became active participants in the fight against marauding pro-slavery terrorists from Missouri whose activities resulted in the murder of a number of abolitionists at Lawrence, Kansas. On May 14, 1855, Brown's group' at Pottawatomie, avenged the crime by killing five pro-slave adherents. This act and his further success at Osawatamie, Kansas in withstanding a large force of attacking Missourians made him nationally famous as an irreconcilable foe of slavery. Aided by financial support from the abolitionists, in 1857, Brown began to effectuate a plan he had long entertained; to free the slaves by armed force and also arming the slaves themselves. On October 16, 1859 his band seized control of an arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia gaining control of the city. Surrounded