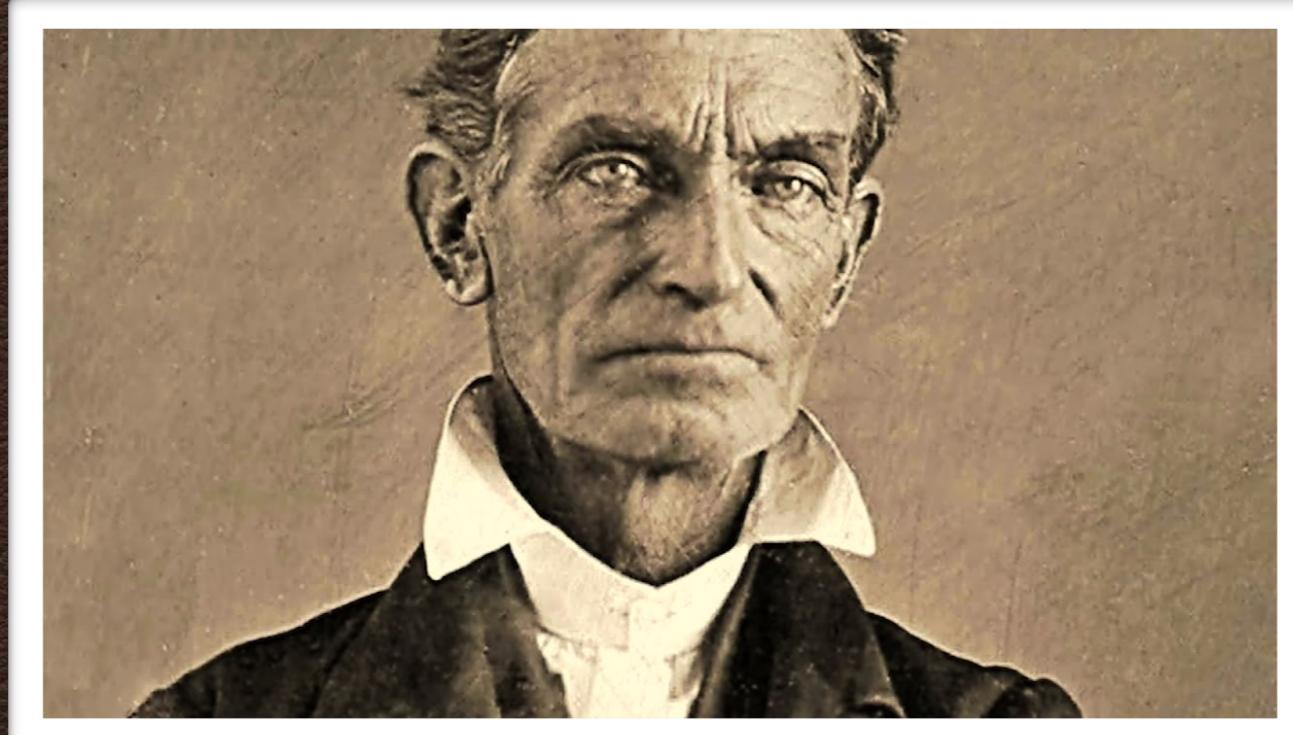


The Union is Shattered

The Gathering Storm 1850-1876



by Joe Burton

The Gathering Storm

- ❖ 1850 - tension between North and South reached the boiling point over the issue of Slavery.
- ❖ Northerners saw Slavery as incompatible with a free society.
- ❖ Southerners felt that their right to decide their own way of life was being attacked.
- ❖ The now centered on whether to allow Slavery to expand into new territories with large enough populations to become states.
- ❖ Both North and South wanted the territories to follow their lead in deciding whether the nation would continue to have legal slaves.

Compromising on Slavery

- ❖ In 1850, California was admitted into the Union as a State.
- ❖ Since the Missouri Compromise of 1820 (Lesson 4/3), there had been an equal number of States where Slavery was legal (Slave States) and States where Slavery was illegal (Free States).
- ❖ Henry Clay, the Speaker of The House, wanted to maintain this balance and avoid conflict.
- ❖ He thought if California entered as a Free State, then Anti-Slavers would compromise and allow the people who lived in such territories as Utah and New Mexico to vote on whether or not to allow Slavery.
- ❖ Clay's compromise was debated in The Senate for seven months. Senator John C.Calhoun of South Carolina was so ill that a friend read **His Speech** declaring that the compromise would snap "*the cords that bind us,*" forcing South Carolina to leave the Union.
- ❖ When Massachusetts Senator Daniel Webster gave a **Thundering Speech** of Approval, the Compromise of 1850 passed.

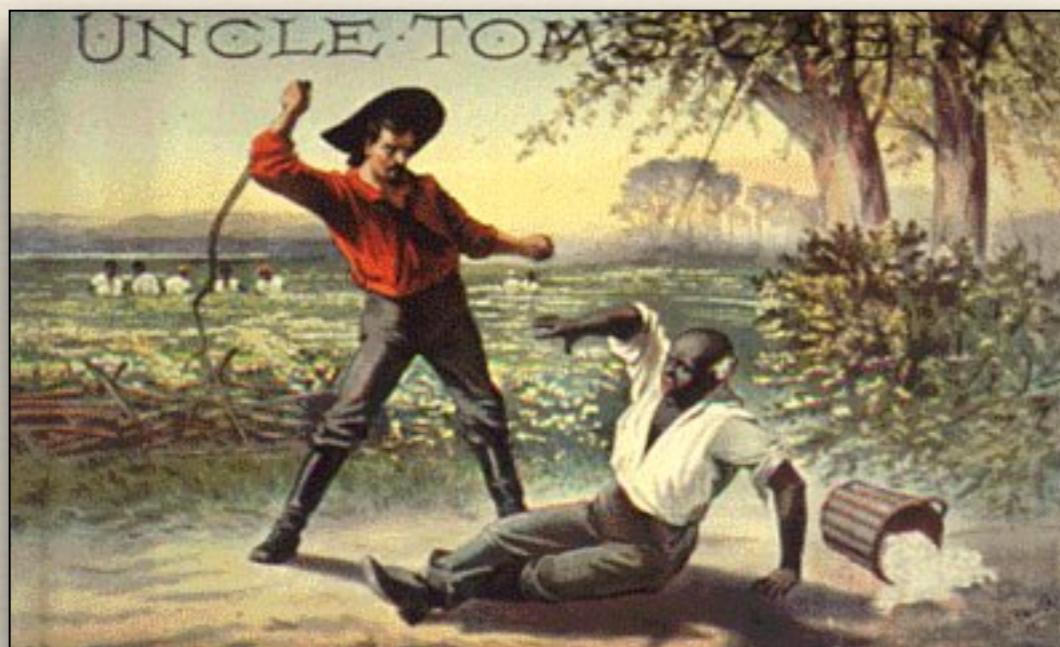


Daniel Websters stirring speech demanding the preservation of the Union at all costs led to Signing of *The Compromise of 1850*.

The Fugitive Slave Laws

- ❖ The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 said that escaped slaves must be returned to their masters in the South.
- ❖ In many places in The North the law wasn't enforced because of local personal-liberty laws or Anti-Slavery ideals of the residents.
- ❖ However, part of The Compromise of 1850 gave slaveowners more power to go after escaped Slaves and levied big penalties on those who interfered with their capture.
- ❖ This new law made the cruelty of Slavery vivid to many Northerners.
- ❖ In 1852, the people of Syracuse, New York, were outraged when an escaped slave, Jerry McHenry, was seized by U.S. Marshals and led through the streets in chains.
- ❖ Abolitionist ministers brok McHenry out of jail and led him to safety through the Underground Railroad...
- ❖ ...a network of Christians abolitionists who hid slaves and guided them to freedom in The North.
- ❖ But often, escaped slaves could not be helped, and were recaptured.

Definition: An *Abolitionist* was someone who wanted slavery abolished or made illegal.



The Slave Overseer, Simon Legree, whips Uncle Tom in an illustration from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Uncle Tom's Cabin...

...the events triggered by the Fugitive Slave Laws inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe, a white woman from Connecticut, to write the notes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Published in 1852, the book sold 300,000 copies in a few months.

Southerners complained that the book presented an unrealistic view of Slavery; Northern readers were deeply moved by the suffering Stowe depicted.



The Last Moments of John Brown - by Thomas Hovenden

This painting features a depiction of abolitionist John Brown descending stairs from the county jail and kissing a baby surrounded by soldiers waiting to escort him to the gallows in 1859.

John Brown, 1800-1859...

...on October 116, 1859, a “wild-eyed” abolitionist named John Brown led a small band of men on a raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Brown, who had fought against pro-slavers in Kansas a few years earlier, planned to used the arsenal's weapons to arm a great Slave Rebellion.

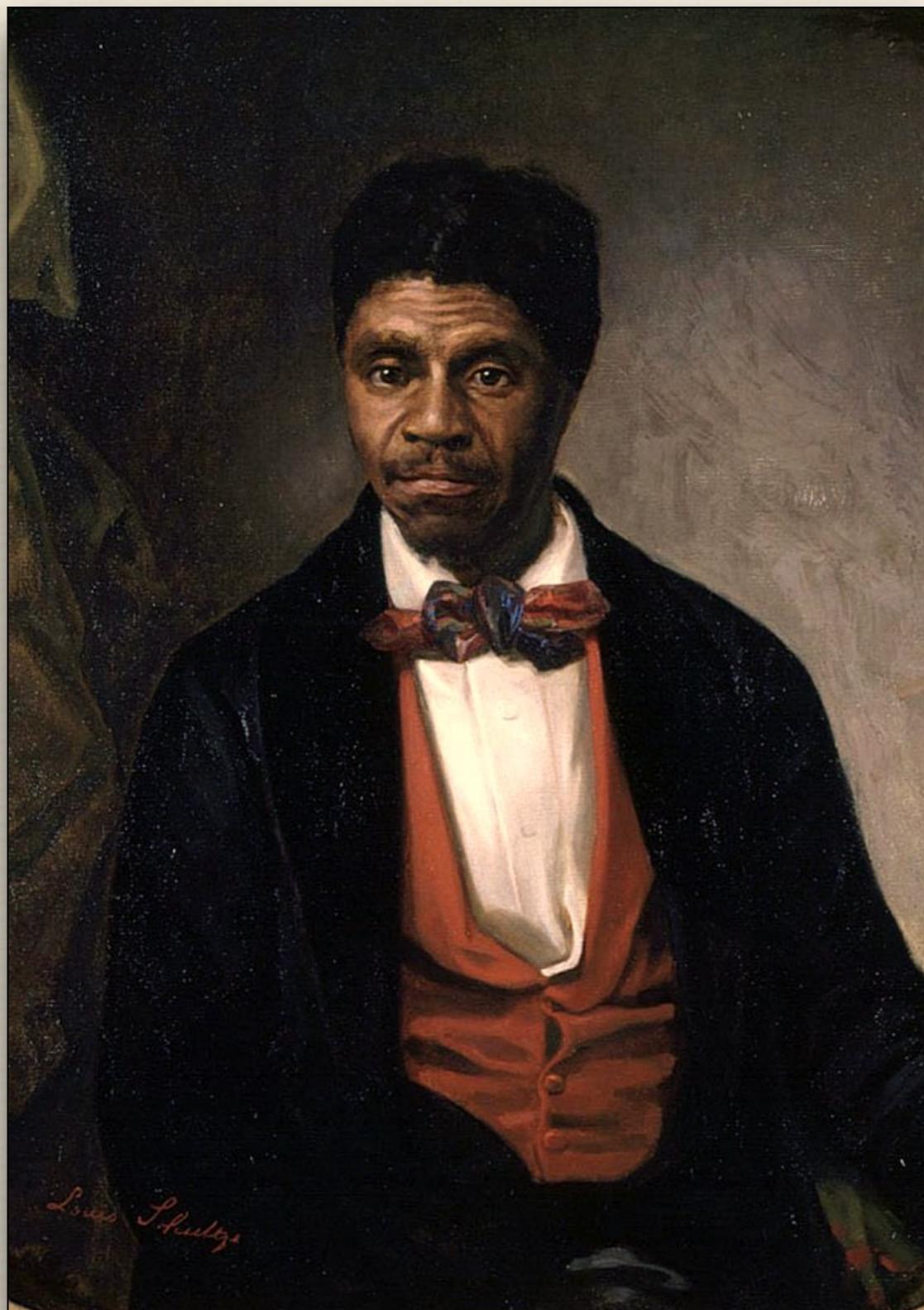
The raid was quickly stopped by the Army and Militia under Colonel Robert E. Lee. Brown and six others were tried, convicted, and executed.

Many Northerners, while horrified by the violent, considered Brown a martyr to the Cause of Freedom. Southerners were worried because they feared the event was a sign that Abolitionists were taking control of the North.

The Kansas Nebraska Act

- ❖ In 1854, Senator Stephen A. Douglas proposed that the residents of the territories of Kansas and Nebraska vote yes or no to decide whether to have Slavery when they became states.
- ❖ People who didn't live in Kansas or Nebraska but who were pro-Slavery moved to the territories just long enough to vote.
- ❖ This swayed the vote and the pro-Slavery forces won.
- ❖ Defying the result, angry “Free-Soilers” moved to the town of Lawrence, Kansas, to establish government without Slavery.
- ❖ Violence erupted in Lawrence in 1856.
- ❖ “Bleeding Kansas” claimed more than 200 lives before the U.S. Army established order.

Definition: Fred Soilers were those who believed that Slavery should not be allowed in the New U.S. Territories.



The Dred Scott (Case) Decision...

...in 1857, Northerners opposed Slavery received another shock when the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) ruled against a slave named Dred Scott (left) who was suing for his freedom.

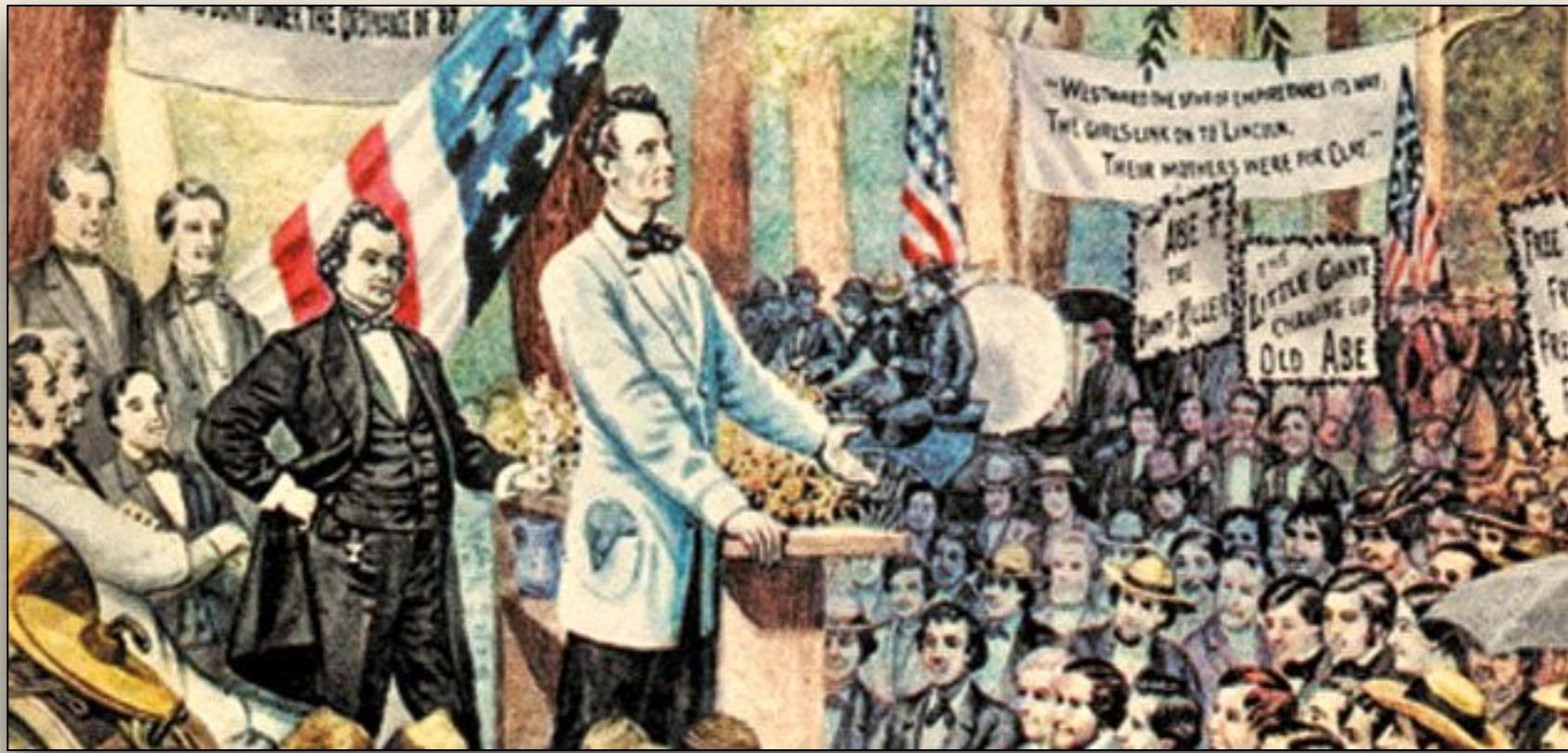
Scott's owners had brought him with them from the South to a Northern Free State to live.

SCOTUS declared that it did not matter whether Scott lived in a Slave State or a Free State, because Slaves were property and owners could take their property wherever they pleased.

Most Southerners were happy with the ruling, which meant that Slavery could be extended into any territory, whether voters approved of it or not.

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

- ❖ In 1858, Abraham Lincoln emerged as the leading figure in the Republican Party...
- ❖ ...following a series of seven debates with Stephan A. Douglas the Democratic Senator from Illinois.
- ❖ The debates were part of a Senate Race in which Lincoln was running against the popular incumbent.
- ❖ They debated the issue of Slavery in the territories.
- ❖ The short, stout Douglas, knows the “Little Giant,” ...
- ❖ ...and Lincoln, a tall, bony frontier Lawyer...
- ❖ ...attracted huge crowds and nationwide newspaper attention.
- ❖ Both men opposed Slavery, but Lincoln insisted that there should be no expansion of Slavery in the territories.
- ❖ Douglas proposed a theory called “Popular Sovereignty,” which relied on a vote of the people in each territory.
- ❖ Douglas won re-election, but Lincoln had appealed to a wide range of voters across the country.



Lincoln (right in white) **Debating Douglas** (Left in black) in Illinois became a matter of Nationwide interest.



Write the Questions Space Your Answers

1. Capital city of Oregon? Year Entered Union?
2. State bordering the north? Order Entered Union?
3. State bordering the East?
4. Two states bordering the South?
5. Ocean bordering the West?
6. River forming Northern Border?
7. River running through Salem?
8. The Ships Symbolize?
9. National Park in Southwest?
10. Mountain range in Northeast?
11. Highest point in Oregon?
12. James K. Polk's Role in Oregon?

The front of the Oregon flag features the words "STATE OF OREGON" and the year "1859," the year Oregon became a state. Between these is a heart-shaped seal that pictures a landscape with mountains, trees, elk, a covered wagon, a British warship leaving and an American Steamship arriving. The ships symbolize the transfer of the Oregon Territory from the British to the US in 1846, when President James K. Polk signed a treaty with England giving this territory to the United States. The covered wagon represents the early Oregon pioneers who traveled on the Oregon Trail to settle in Oregon.

