

# TEXAS DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION, 1861-1876

Joseph Florencio

source



JOHN C. FREMONT.

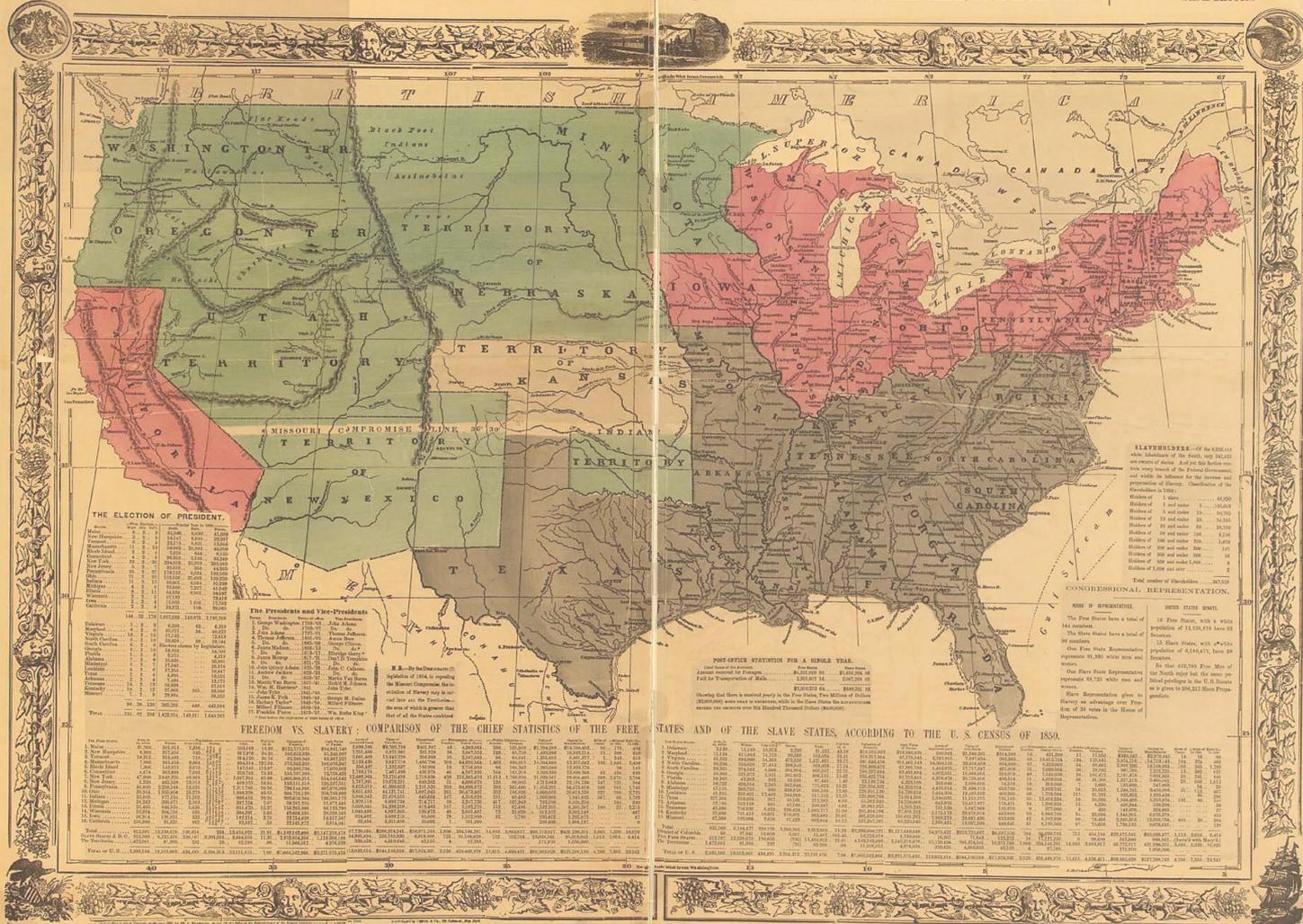
# REYNOLDS'S POLITICAL MAP OF THE UNITED STATES,

DESIGNED TO EXHIBIT THE COMPARATIVE AREA OF THE FREE AND SLAVE STATES, AND THE TERRITORY OPEN TO SLAVERY OR FREEDOM BY THE REPEAL OF THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE. WITH A COMPARISON OF THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS OF THE FREE AND SLAVE STATES, FROM THE CENSUS OF 1850.

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WM. L. DAYTON.



### THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

State	Electors	Free States	Slave States
Alabama	7		7
Arkansas	7		7
California	5	5	
Delaware	3		3
Florida	5		5
Georgia	11		11
Illinois	11	11	
Indiana	11	11	
Iowa	7	7	
Kansas	3	3	
Kentucky	11		11
Louisiana	7		7
Maine	7	7	
Massachusetts	11	11	
Michigan	7	7	
Minnesota	3	3	
Missouri	11		11
Montana	3	3	
Nebraska	3	3	
Nevada	3	3	
New Hampshire	7	7	
New Jersey	7	7	
New York	36	36	
North Carolina	11		11
Ohio	19	19	
Oregon	3	3	
Pennsylvania	23	23	
Rhode Island	7	7	
South Carolina	7		7
Tennessee	11		11
Texas	10		10
Vermont	7	7	
Virginia	11		11
Washington	3	3	
West Virginia	3	3	
Wisconsin	7	7	
Wyoming	3	3	
Total	108	55	53

### The Presidents and Vice-Presidents.

Year	President	Vice-President
1789	George Washington	John Adams
1792	John Adams	Thomas Jefferson
1796	Thomas Jefferson	Aaron Burr
1800	James Madison	James Monroe
1804	James Madison	George Clinton
1808	James Monroe	James Monroe
1812	James Monroe	James Monroe
1816	James Monroe	James Monroe
1820	James Monroe	James Monroe
1824	James Monroe	James Monroe
1828	Andrew Jackson	John C. Calhoun
1832	Andrew Jackson	Andrew Calhoun
1836	Andrew Jackson	Andrew Calhoun
1840	Andrew Jackson	Andrew Calhoun
1844	Andrew Jackson	Andrew Calhoun
1848	Andrew Jackson	Andrew Calhoun
1852	Andrew Jackson	Andrew Calhoun

**F.R. By the Democrats.**  
The population of the U.S. according to the Census of 1850 is 23,800,000. The area of the U.S. is 3,500,000 square miles. The area of the Slave States is 1,500,000 square miles. The area of the Free States is 2,000,000 square miles.

### FREEDOM VS. SLAVERY: COMPARISON OF THE CHIEF STATISTICS OF THE FREE STATES AND OF THE SLAVE STATES, ACCORDING TO THE U. S. CENSUS OF 1850.

State	Population	Area (sq. miles)	Free	Slave
Alabama	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Arkansas	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
California	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Delaware	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Florida	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Georgia	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Illinois	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Indiana	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Iowa	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Kansas	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Kentucky	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Louisiana	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Maine	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Massachusetts	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Michigan	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Minnesota	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Missouri	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Montana	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Nebraska	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Nevada	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
New Hampshire	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
New Jersey	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
New York	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
North Carolina	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Ohio	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Oregon	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Pennsylvania	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Rhode Island	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
South Carolina	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Tennessee	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Texas	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Virginia	1,000,000	50,000	0	1,000,000
Washington	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
West Virginia	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Wisconsin	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Wyoming	1,000,000	50,000	1,000,000	0
Total	23,800,000	3,500,000	15,000,000	8,800,000

**STATISTICS.**—Of the 23,800,000 white inhabitants of the United States, only 8,800,000 are slaves. The Slave States have a total of 8,800,000 slaves. The Free States have a total of 15,000,000 free people. The Free States have a total of 15,000,000 free people. The Slave States have a total of 8,800,000 slaves.

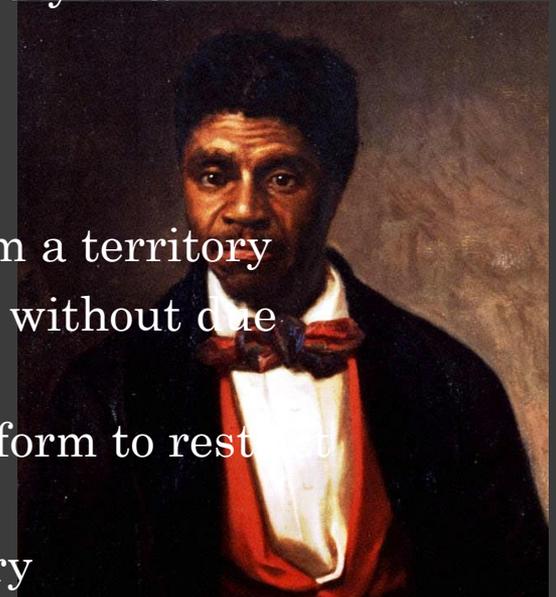
**CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.**  
The Free States have a total of 144 members. The Slave States have a total of 90 members. The Free States have a total of 144 members. The Slave States have a total of 90 members.

**POPULATION STATISTICS FOR A SINGLE YEAR.**  
The population of the United States in 1850 was 23,800,000. The population of the Free States in 1850 was 15,000,000. The population of the Slave States in 1850 was 8,800,000.

**FREE STATES AND OF THE SLAVE STATES, ACCORDING TO THE U. S. CENSUS OF 1850.**  
The Free States have a total of 15,000,000 free people. The Slave States have a total of 8,800,000 slaves. The Free States have a total of 15,000,000 free people. The Slave States have a total of 8,800,000 slaves.

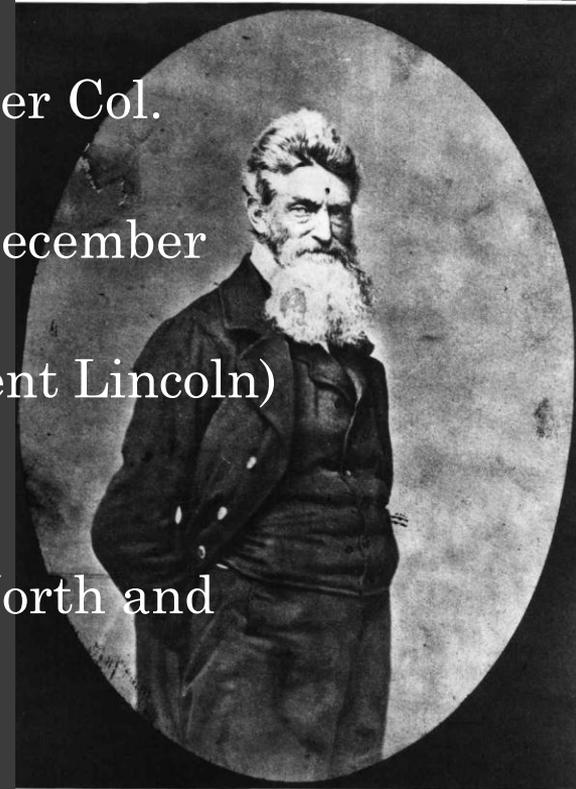
# CRISIS AND COMPROMISE

- *Dred Scott v. Sanford*
- Dred Scott, a slave that lived in free territories sued for his freedom
- Supreme Court heard the case and asked these questions:
  - Could a black person be a citizen and sue in court?
  - Did residence in a free state make Scott free?
  - Did Congress possess the power to prohibit slavery in a territory?
- Chief Justice Roger Taney declares that:
  - Only white persons could be citizens in the U.S.
  - Congress possessed no power to bar slavery from a territory
  - Slaves cannot be taken away from their owners without due process of the law
- This poses a serious threat to the Republican's platform to restrict the expansion of slavery
- Really heats up the "Slave Power Conspiracy" theory



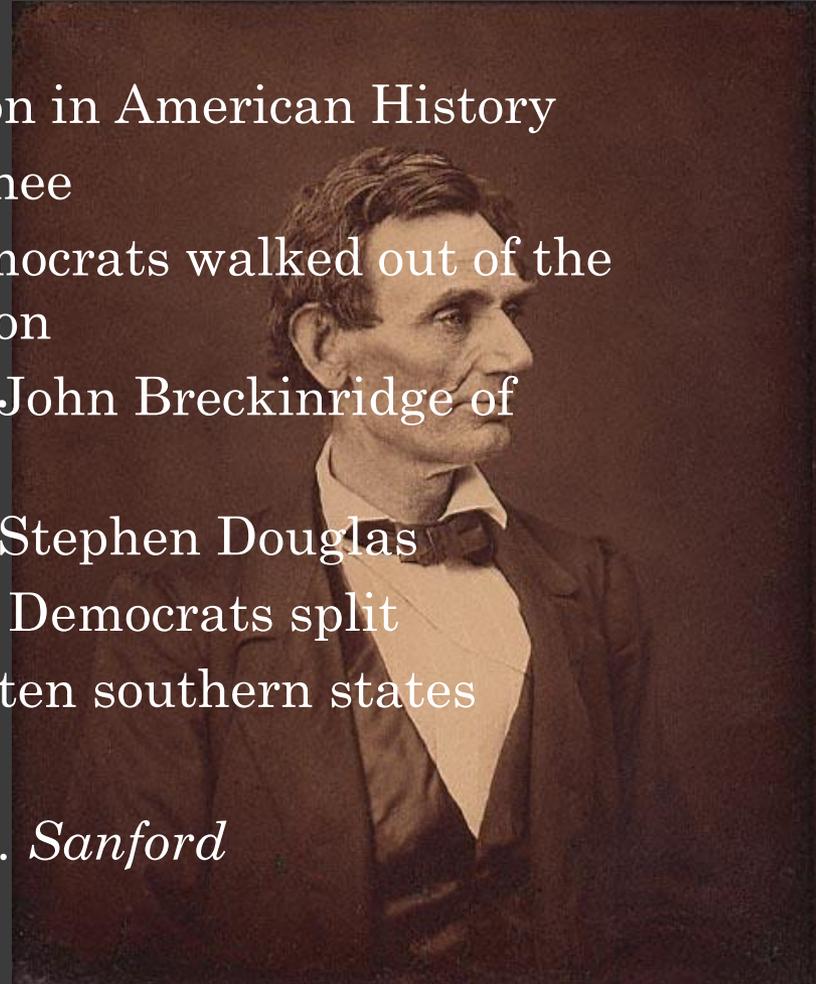
# DESCENT INTO WAR

- *John Brown's Raid*
- John Brown, an abolitionist that had reactionary tendencies plans an armed slave revolt on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia
- The assault was stopped by U.S. Marines under Col. Robert E. Lee
- Brown was captured, tried, and executed in December 1859
- John Wilkes Booth (future assassin of President Lincoln) witnessed the execution
- This event greatly upsets the South
- Causes more sectional division between the North and South
- Also bolsters Southern Nationalism



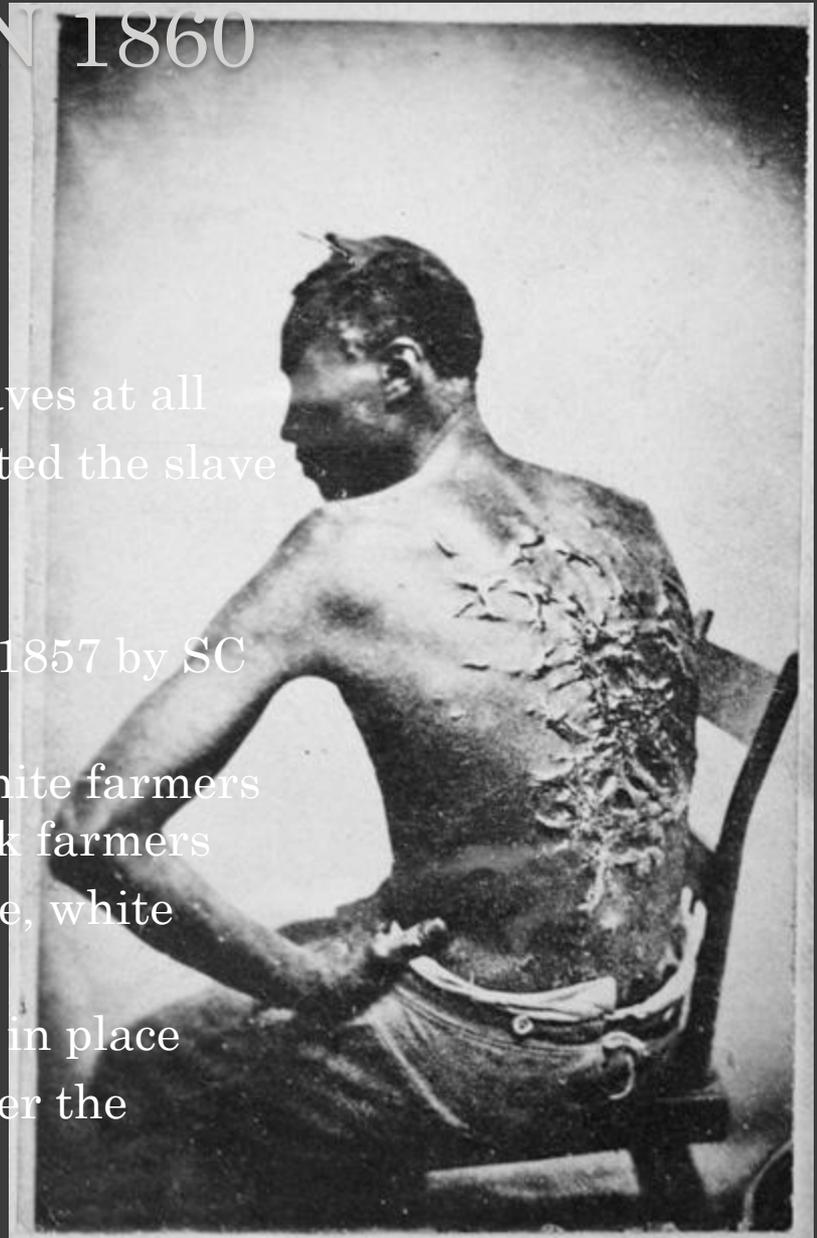
# DESCENT INTO WAR

- *The Election of 1860*
- Arguably the most important election in American History
- Abraham Lincoln, Republican nominee
- Democrats were split, Southern Democrats walked out of the 1860 Democratic National Convention
  - Southern Democrats nominated John Breckinridge of Kentucky
  - Northern Democrats nominated Stephen Douglas
- Lincoln wins in a landslide with the Democrats split
  - Does not receive a single vote in ten southern states
- Republican party platform:
  - Deny the validity of *Dred Scott v. Sanford*
  - Oppose slavery's expansion
  - More economic incentives



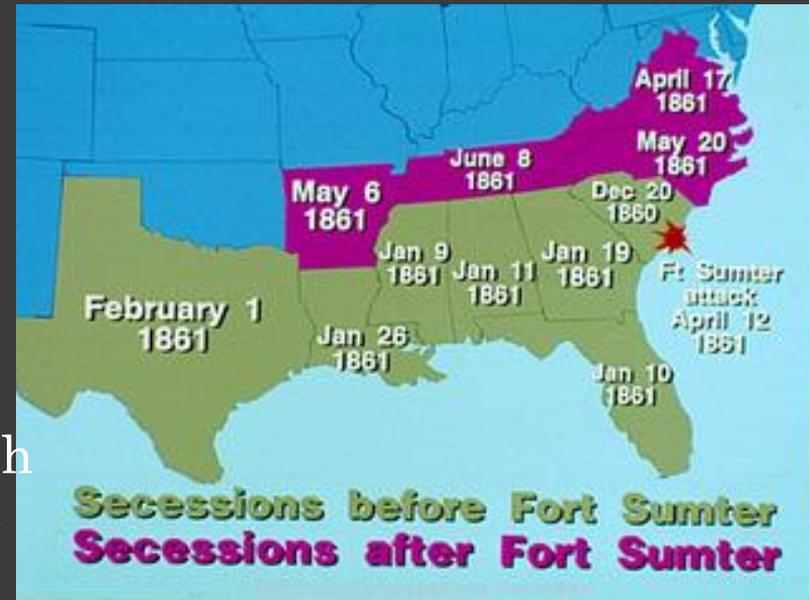
# SLAVERY IN TEXAS IN 1860

- Most White Texans did not own slaves
  - 0.7% owned slaves at all
  - 0.1% owned more than 5 slaves
  - 99.3% of white Texans owned no slaves at all
  - Yet almost all white Texans supported the slave system
- Mudsill Theory
  - Comes from a US Senate speech in 1857 by SC senator James Hammond
  - If slavery was abolished, all poor white farmers would then be equal to all poor black farmers
  - As long as slavery was based on race, white poor farmers had to fight for it
  - Economic concerns kept the system in place
  - Mudsill theory was proven right after the war....this led to extreme racism



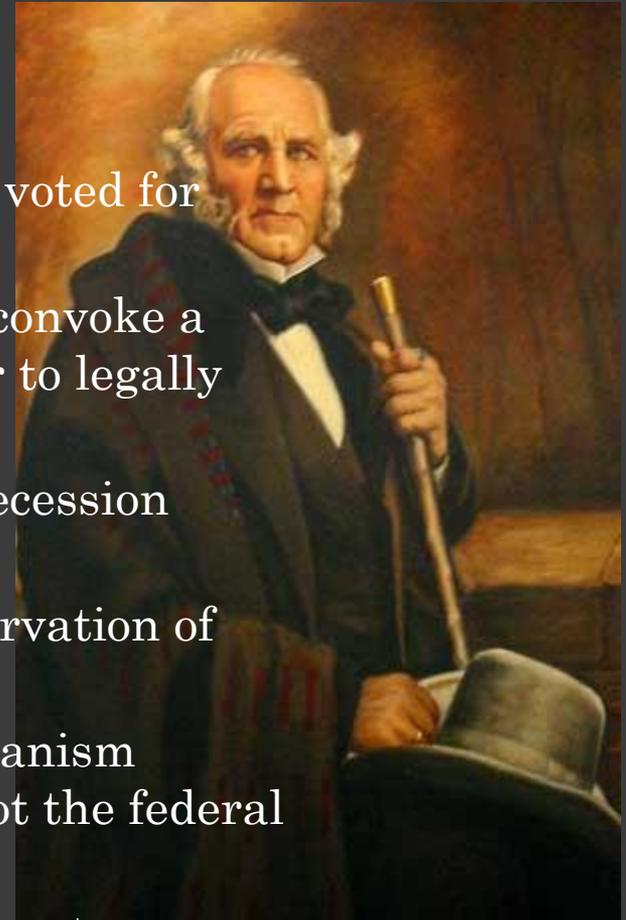
# DESCENT INTO WAR

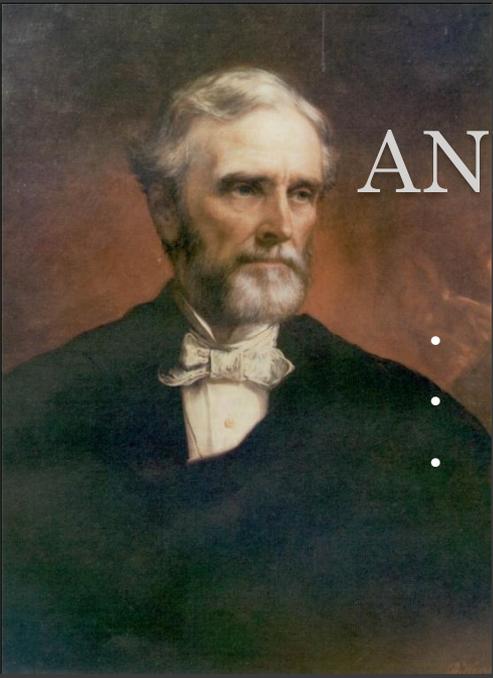
- *The Secession Crisis*
- Begins as soon as Lincoln is elected president
- Rather than be a minority, Deep South leaders call for regional independence
- By the time Lincoln takes the oath of office, seven states secede from the Union
  - From South Carolina to Texas
- Leaving president James Buchanan said a state could not leave the Union
  - But he didn't believe the U.S. could use force against them



# TEXAS AND THE SECESSION CRISIS

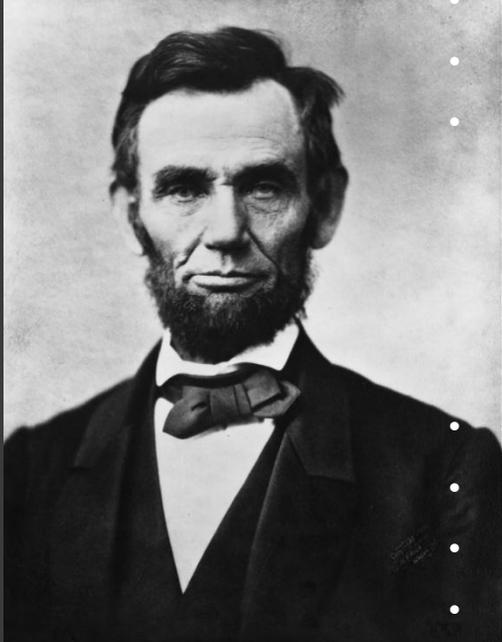
- *Texas Democrats and Secession*
- December 1860 – Texas Democrats met and voted for secession
  - Requested that Governor Sam Houston convoke a special session of the legislature in order to legally vote for a secession convention
- Houston, a Unionist, fought to stop Texas' secession from the Union
- Those favoring secession believed that preservation of their way of life depended on it
  - A deep-seated understanding of republicanism committed them to the idea that they, not the federal government, should control their lives
- Houston later is removed from office for failing to swear allegiance to the Confederacy
  - Replaced by Edward Clark



A color portrait of James K. Polk, an older man with a full white beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a white bow tie. The background is a dark, mottled brown.

# AND THE WAR CAME

- *Lincoln's Response*
- Believed the secession issue would collapse from within
- Issued this warning: "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war"

- 
- A black and white portrait of Abraham Lincoln, showing him from the chest up. He has a full dark beard and mustache, and is wearing a dark suit with a white shirt and a dark bow tie.
- *The Confederate States of America*
  - Formed on 4 March 1861
  - Elected Jefferson Davis as President
    - Rather reluctant to become president
    - Loved the United States
    - Was torn over the constitutionality of slavery

- *Fort Sumter*
- South fires on Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861
- Lincoln calls in 75,000 troops to suppress the insurrection
- Waco's own Felix H. Robertson was an artilleryman at the battle

# SCOTT'S GREAT SNAKE.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1861, by J. B. Elliott of Cincinnati in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of Ohio.

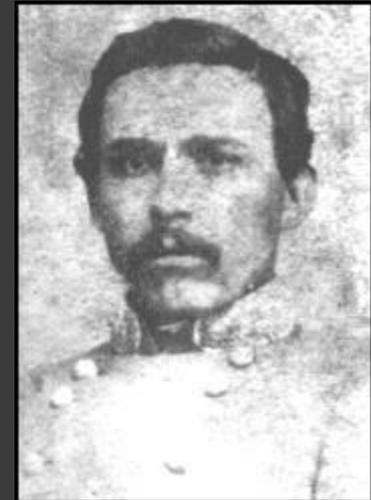


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# BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT (1861)

## *Fort Sumter*

- 15 April 1861
- Shelling was conducted by Southern belligerents upset at the possibility of Lincoln being an anti-slavery president
- Lincoln demands the shelling stops
  - Commands them to disband immediately
  - Known to Southerners as the beginning of “Lincoln’s Aggression”
- The Upper South began to systematically secede from the Union because of Lincoln’s perceived ‘aggression’.
- Waco’s own Felix H. Robertson (CSA) was present and helped the shelling

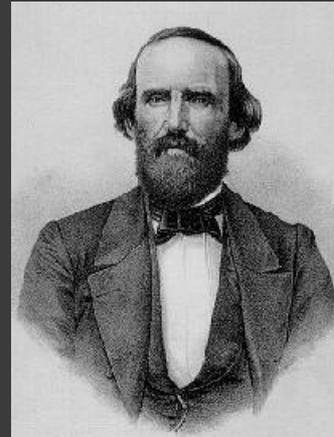


# TEXAS MOBILIZATION

- *Department of Texas Takeover*
- 16 February 1861, Ben McCulloch went to San Antonio and compelled Brig. Gen. David E. Twiggs, commander of the Department of Texas to surrender U.S. forces and evacuate immediately
  - McCulloch later raised the Lone Star flag over the Alamo
- Days later, Colonel John S. “Rip” Ford took 500 volunteers and captured Brazos Island, at the mouth of the Rio Grande



John S. “Rip” Ford



Ben McCulloch

# THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA

- 60,000 Texans join the CSA army
- Some who join the CSA army do so for their love of Texas not the CSA
- Texans join the cavalry not the infantry or navy



Young Johnny Reb ready for war.

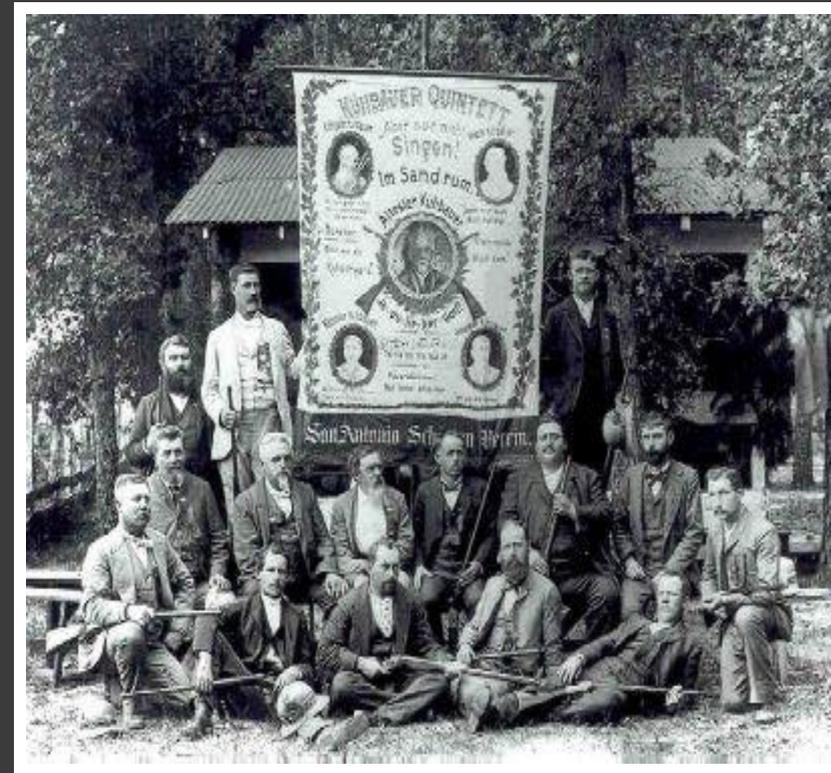
# THE UNION ARMY

- Those who join are called the Texas Unionist
- Mexican Americans and African Americans join the Union army
- Mexicans tend to join for the pay and because the Union is against slavery



# OBJECTORS TO THE WAR?

- Most German immigrants choose not fight in the war
- some are against slavery. Others loved the Union
- 42 Germans were hung in October 1862, because CSA supporters feared they would support the Union in Texas



Members of a German shooting club.

# MILITARY PLANNING (1862-1863)

- *Northern Military Planning*
- The “Anaconda Plan”
  - Suffocate the South from all sides and let it die by occupying a majority of the enemy territory
  - Advocated by General-in-Chief Winfield Scott
  - Called for a blockade on all Southern ports
  - Advance down the Mississippi River to cut the South into two pieces
  - This was a fairly passive military strategy
  - Scott takes on this approach partially due to Lincoln’s push for a blockade
- The plan’s failure
  - No U.S. Navy ships could navigate the Mississippi the way Scott believed
  - The strategy was too short-sighted; Scott believed that the South would easily give up
  - Scott gives up his post and his plan to George B. McClellan
- *Southern Military Strategy*
- Thought the war would be primarily defensive
- General Robert E. Lee believed and advocated for this initially

# THE BATTLE OF GALVESTON

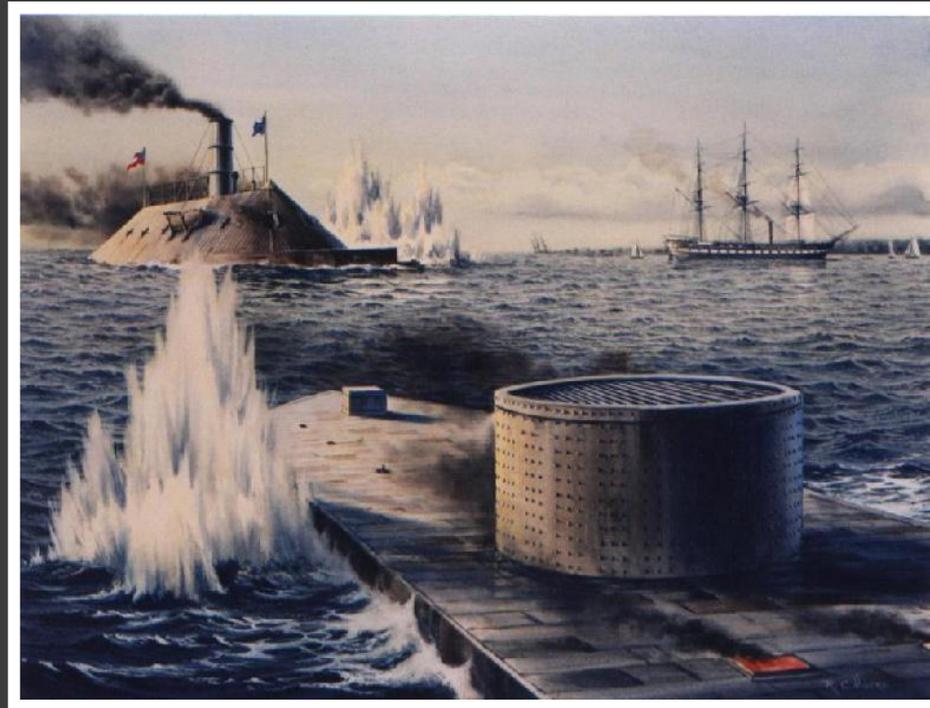
- Cotton is shipped through Mexican waters and sold to England and France
- Union ships and troops capture the port of Galveston in Oct. 1862
- CSA retakes the port in January 1863



Union gunboat docked at Galveston port.

# THE BATTLE OF SABINE PASS

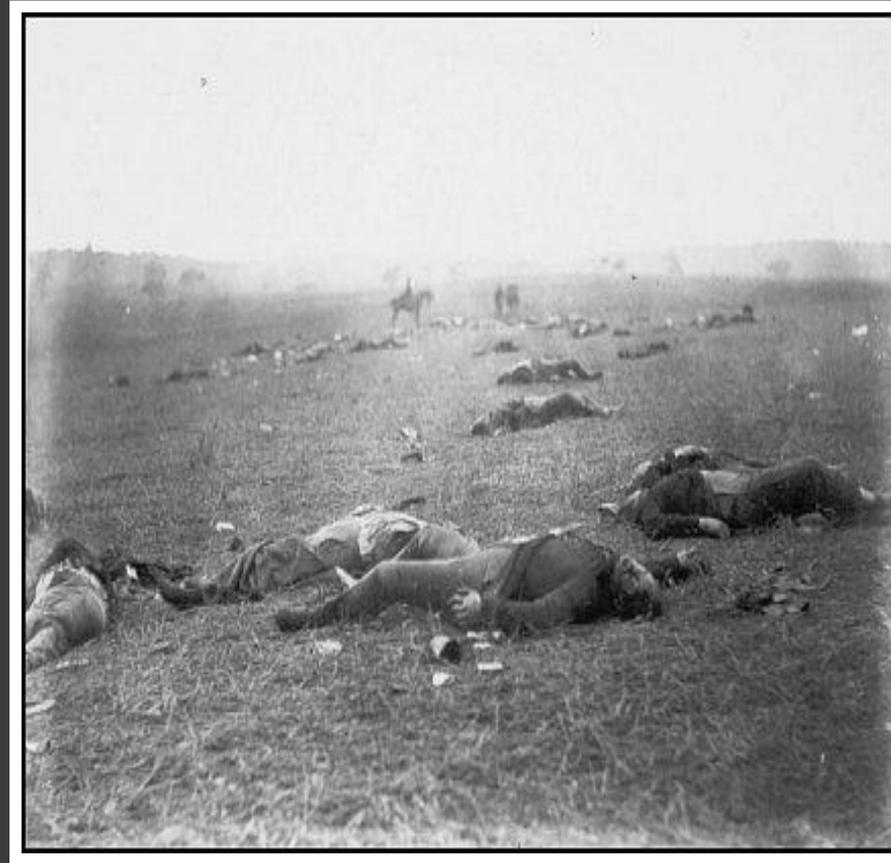
- On Sept 8, 1863 Union forces attempt to block another Texas port
- CSA defeat the Union forces. It is an important because its stops the Union army for taking Texas



Union and CSA Naval gunships engaged in battle.

# THE BATTLE OF BROWNSVILLE

- November 1863, the Union forces capture Brownsville
- The capture of Brownsville hurts the CSA because cotton and weapons move through the port for the CSA



# THE BATTLE OF LAREDO

- March 19, 1864, 42 CSA Mexican Americans defeat 200 Union troopers for Laredo
- Colonel Santos Benavides rallies men to fight
- Laredo serves as a way station for cotton as it is shipped to Mexico



# HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE AT ANTIETAM: CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BRAVEST FIGHTING UNITS IN THE CIVIL WAR





# HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE

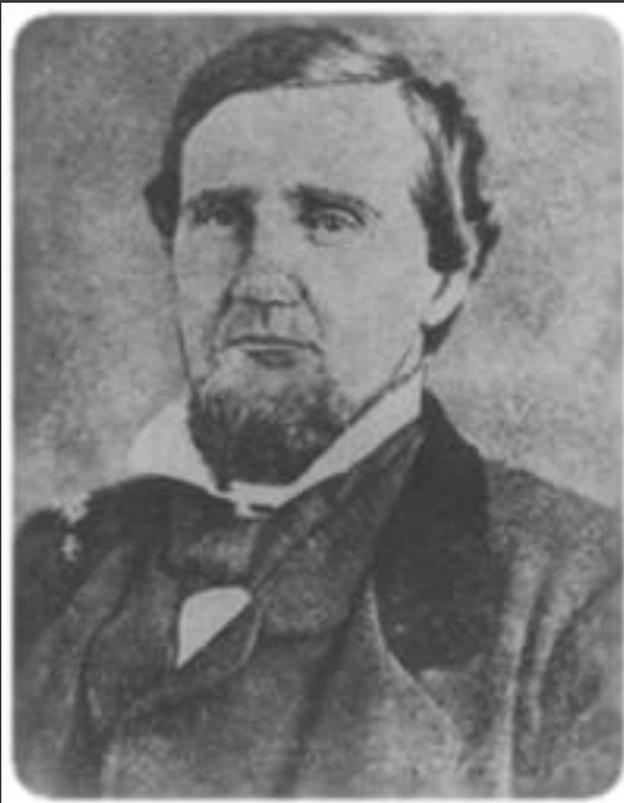
- *Background*
- Hood's Texas Brigade is the only detachment of Texans to serve in the eastern theater
- *Notable Battles and Casualties*
- Fought with the Army of Northern Virginia for a great portion of the war
- Participated in:
  - Second Battle of Manassas
  - Battle of Antietam
  - Battle of Gettysburg
- Texas casualties
  - 3,500 enlisted at the beginning of the war
  - 4,400 enlisted by 1862
  - Only 600 officers and men surrendered at the end of the war
  - 61 percent casualty rate



# TERRY'S TEXAS RANGERS

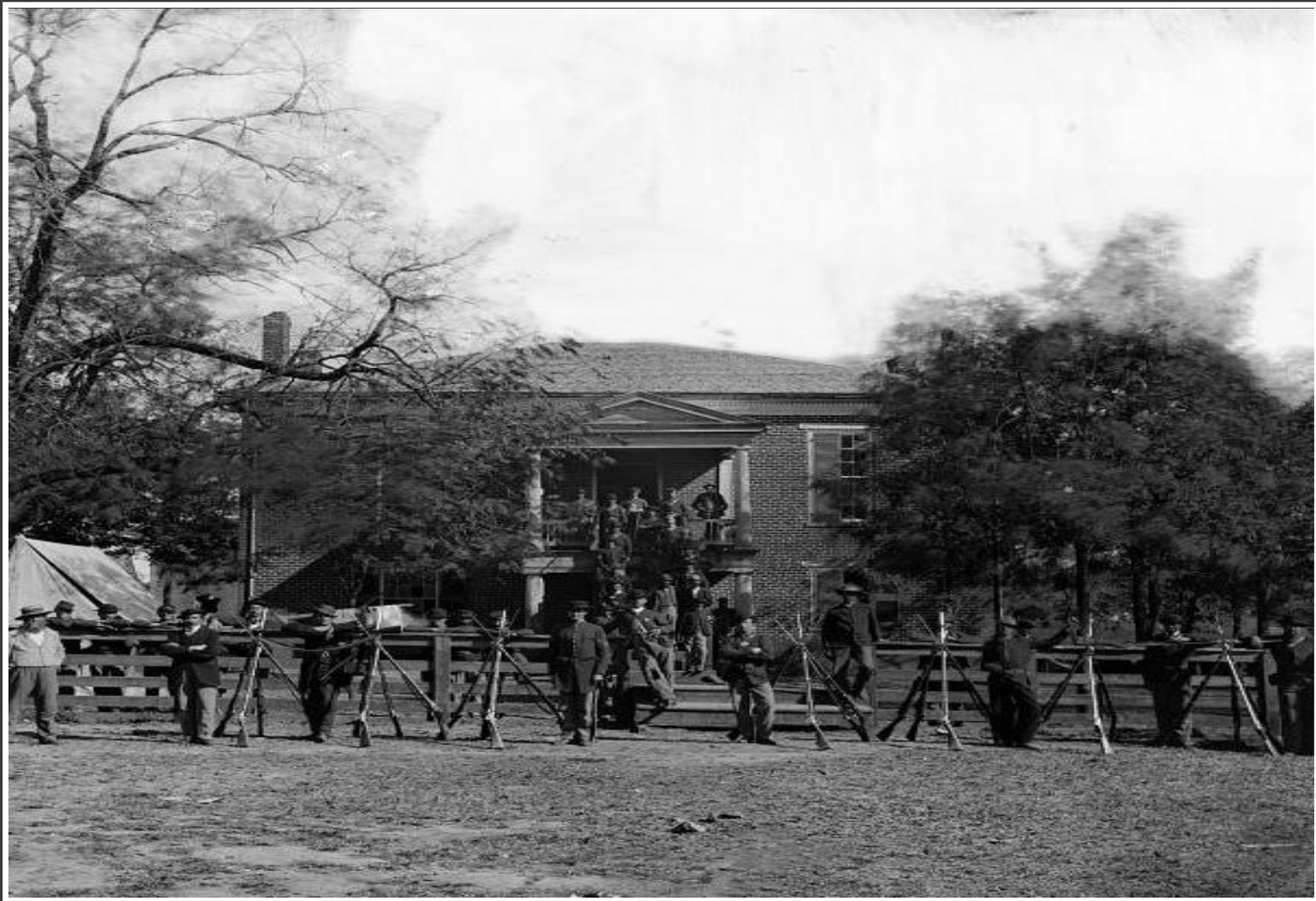
- *Background*
- Benjamin Franklin Terry, a wealthy sugar planter, recruited and organized the Rangers in Houston (August 1861)
- Initially, the unit was placed under the command of Albert Sidney Johnston to serve in the western theater
- Terry was killed early in the war during a skirmish; Lt. Col. Thomas Lubbock took over
- By the end of the war, Col. Thomas Harrison was commanding officer and the unit was a part of the Army of Tennessee

- *Texas' Shock Troops*
- The unit's ability to harass Union forces was noted and they were used extensively to counter Sherman's March to the Sea
- Concentrated on destroying railways
  - Had little effect
- After the Atlanta campaign, the unit concentrated on harassing the flanks of Sherman's force





Terry's Texas Rangers Recon Unit



Appomattox Courthouse (1865)

# APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE (1865)

- *Time, Location, and Opposing Leaders*
- 9 April 1865
- Appomattox Court House, Appomattox, Virginia
- Union: Ulysses S. Grant
- Confederate: Robert E. Lee
  
- *Significance*
- Final battle of the CSA Northern Virginia army
- Surrender was the only option
  - Lee, “there is nothing left for me to do but to go and see General Grant and I would rather die a thousand deaths.”
- Grant’s reply: “General, your note on this date is but this moment, 11:50 AM, rec’d., in consequence of my having passed from the Richmond and Lynchburg road. I am at this writing about four miles West of Walker’s Church and will push forward to the front for the purpose of meeting you. Notice sent to me on this road where you wish the interview to take place.”

# APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE (1865)

- *Lee Surrenders*
- Lee shows up at Appomattox Court House in an immaculate Confederate uniform
- Grant shows up in a mud spattered uniform with no side arm, no regalia, and only a tarnished shoulder strap showing his rank
- The two generals spend a great deal of time discussing their past and service in the Mexican War
- Grant offers Lee a very generous deal:
  - None of his officers or men would be imprisoned or prosecuted
  - Grant would supply food for Lee's starving army
  - CSA soldiers could take home their horses and mules for spring planting
- Lee agrees and said it would have a positive effect on reconciling the torn country
- 10 April 1865: 27, 805 Confederates surrender

# WHAT WERE THEY FIGHTING FOR?

- *Numbers*
- 633,000 Americans died in the Civil War
  - 373,000 Union
  - 260,000 CSA
  - 24,000 Texans (roughly 68,500 served)
- *Goals*
- North
  - Preservation of the Union, the “last great hope in the world”
- South
  - Preservation of our way of life
    - Slavery, plantations, antebellum mentalities
    - An economic system welded to tradition and slavery
- Both believed God was on their side

# WHAT WERE THEY FIGHTING FOR?

- *Lasting Effects*
- North
  - Civic Religion forms out of the fusion of religion and God's 'just cause' for Lincoln's "last great hope in the world"
- South
  - "Lost Cause" mentality – the South was defeated unjustly
  - They were fighting for the same cause as the Revolution
    - Freedom from oppression

RECONSTRUCTION,  
REPUBLICANISM AND  
“REDEMPTION” IN TEXAS

# THE MYTH OF RECONSTRUCTION

- Southerners fought against the North to protect local institutions and states' rights
- The North won and then set out to deliberately enforce a policy of rape, pillage, plunder, and vindictive punishment on the South
- The South became controlled by vindictive Union soldiers, carpetbaggers, and scalawags

# THE MYTH OF RECONSTRUCTION



- *Carpetbagger* – Northerner who came to the broken South for economic opportunity. They claimed they had the South's interests in mind, but were all about the money.
- *Scalawags* – Southerners who had always favored the Union; opposed secession, and sometimes taken up arms against the South (think of Gainesville)

# THE MYTH OF RECONSTRUCTION

- The North easily manipulated and subjected Southerners to unethical and inhumane punishment during Reconstruction
- They raised taxes, ruined the economy, and used military force to perpetuate their control as long as possible
- In essence, the South was a subjugated colony of the North (not any better off than the American colonies were in the 1760s and early 1770s)

# THE REALITY OF RECONSTRUCTION

- Reconstruction was politically, economically, and socially abnormal for the South
- Politically
  - Northern imposed Reconstruction governments pursued active government that resulted in higher taxes
  - Southerners preferred antebellum Southern government that was inactive and weak
  - Traditional Democratic leaders in the South were disfranchised while blacks were temporarily enfranchised

# THE REALITY OF RECONSTRUCTION

- Economically
  - Slavery was abolished
  - The Southern economy was in ruins because of war debt and the lack of an large, inexpensive labor pool
- Socially
  - Blacks were given limited rights
  - This struck fear in the hearts of many Southerners

# THE REALITY OF RECONSTRUCTION

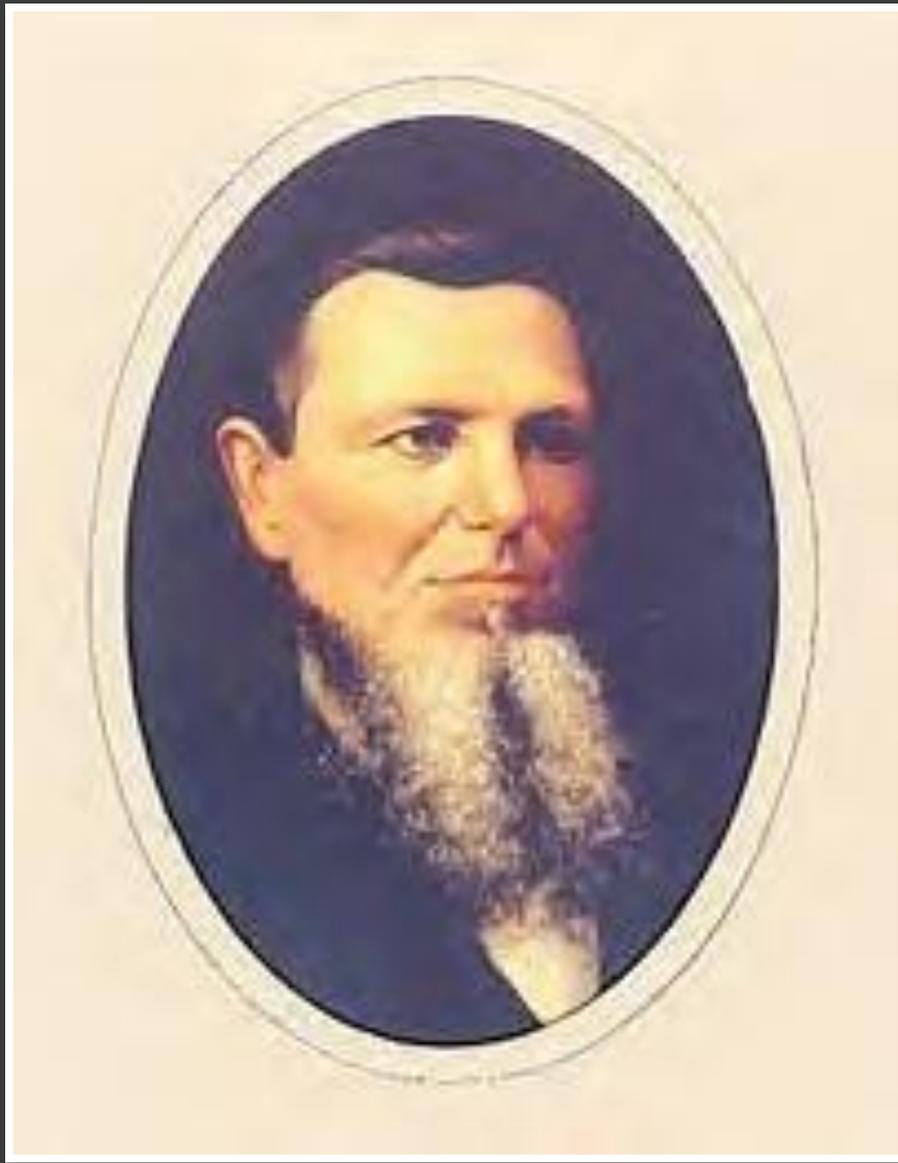
- Moderate Reality
  - There were no mass executions of Confederate politicians or military personnel
  - There was no nationalization or appropriation of plantation lands by the North
  - The North did not force war reparation payments on the South
- The Reality of Industrialization
  - The North was now the strongest section of the nation due to rapid population increases and industrialization
  - As a result, the South was no longer an equal section of the nation.

# LINCOLN'S LEGACY FOR RECONSTRUCTION (1863-1865)

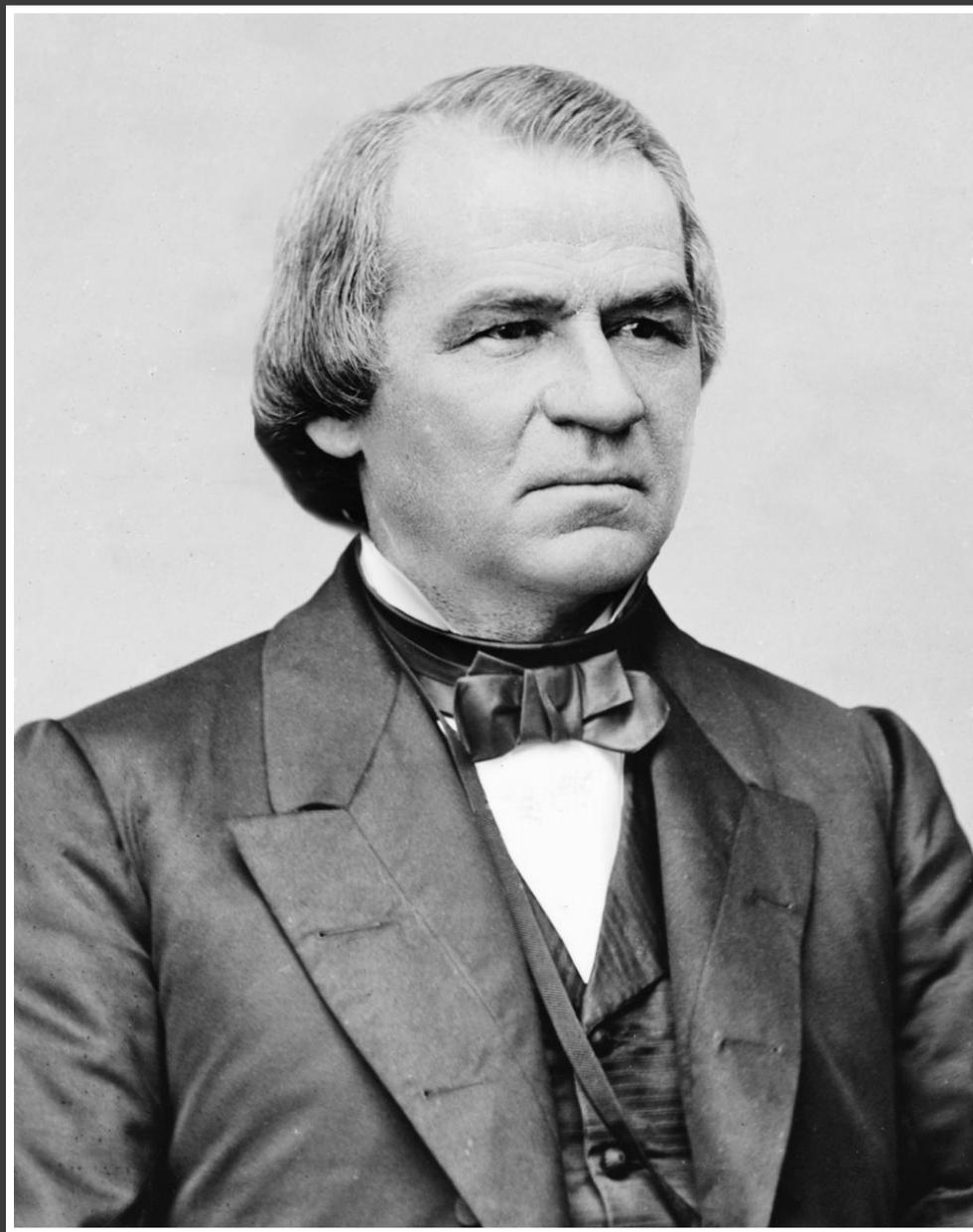
- *The Ten Percent Plan (1863)*
- Lincoln wanted a quick and painless method to bring the secessionist states back to the Union after the war ended
- The plan indicated that any state would be reaccepted to the Union after 10% of the people who voted in the 1860 election took an oath to the United States.
- The only exclusion were CSA officers and leaders.
  
- Congress' Response to Lincoln: *The Wade-Davis Bill (1864)*
- Congress felt that Lincoln was too conciliatory and weak on the secessionist states.
  - They were afraid the slave and plantation owners would quickly regain all their previous power.
  
- The Wade-Davis Bill indicated that 50% of the people of a secessionist state would be required to take an oath to the United States before they could be *considered* for statehood.

# PHASES OF RECONSTRUCTION IN TEXAS

- Provisional Texas Government (1865-1866)
- Presidential Reconstruction (1866-1867)
- Congressional Reconstruction (1867-1870)
- Radical Reconstruction (1870-1874)
- Redemption (1874-1876)
  
- *Issues:*
- How do secessionist states regain recognition with the United States?
  
- What do we do with the Confederates?
  - Civil status for their leaders
  
- What is the Constitutional and legal status of freed blacks (freedmen)?



Andrew Jackson Hamilton (Provisional Texas Gov. 1865-1866)



U.S. President Andrew Johnson

# PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

- President Andrew Johnson appoints Andrew Jackson Hamilton, former U.S. congressman and Unionist as provisional Texas Governor in June 1865
- Johnson's Terms of Reconstruction
  - All seceded states must declare secession null and void
  - Cancel all debt accumulated during the war
  - Approve the Thirteenth Amendment
    - Ended slavery
  - Most people were required to take an oath of loyalty to the U.S.
- Johnson wanted to end Reconstruction quickly
- Exemptions to Johnson's Reconstruction
  - All high-ranking ex-Confederates
  - Property owners with land values over \$20,000

# PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

- Political Factions in Texas (1865-1866)
  - Slavery is the divisive issue
  - *Hamilton Unionists* – proposed basic rights for freedmen; similar to national Republicans
  - *Conservative Unionists* – opposed granting any freedoms to blacks beyond emancipation
  - *Conservative Democrats* – former Secessionist Democrats; also opposed any freedoms for blacks beyond emancipation

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1866

- Gov. Hamilton attempted to appease President Johnson's rapid reinstatement of former Confederate states
- Agenda
  - Legal status of secession
    - Declares secession illegal
  - Controversy over Texas' war debt
    - Debt forgiven
  - Issue of slavery
    - Accepts the demise of slavery
    - Does not accept the Thirteenth Amendment (finally does in 1870)

# CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1866

- Freedmen's Rights
  - Constitution grants blacks freedoms federal policy forced them to concede
  - Right to purchase and sell property
  - Right to sue and be sued
  - Right to enter legally binding contracts
  - Right to testify in court against other only other blacks
- Rights not granted
  - No voting rights and no access to public office
  - No Jury participation
  - No access to Public schools
- 25 June 1866, the Constitution of 1866 was approved
  - Essentially amended the Constitution of 1845

# PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION

- Social Status of Freedmen
  - Roughly 250,000 in Texas (1865)
  - Some freedmen remained in slavery until 1868
  - Whites did not accept them as free
    - Distrusted and feared them
    - Saw them as an economic and social burden
    - White racial superiority was the norm
    - Paranoia over the potential mixing of black men and white women
      - Later becomes one of the typical justifications for lynching against blacks

# BLACK CODES IN TEXAS

- 1866, Texas state legislature enacted this set of laws to dictate black economic progress
  - Contract labor law (binding agreement)
    - Could be thrown in prison and sent to work for the state if they refused to work
  - Blacks prohibited from interracial mixture
  - Could not hold public office
  - Could not serve on juries or bear witness against a white person
  - Could not vote

# FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

- Established in 1866 to help fight for the rights of freedmen in hostile areas in the South
- Had an impossible task; only 1000 agents in the South
- Goals:
  - Establish schools for blacks
  - Aid to poor/aged blacks
  - Settle racial disputes
  - Secure equal treatment and civility for blacks in the court system

# FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN TEXAS

- Public Perception
  - Viewed as carpetbaggers who were bent on rendering the South powerless
  - Intruders interfering with race relations
  - Opportunists who worked solely for the money they earned from their office
- Limited manpower
  - Only 70 agents and subordinates in Texas
  - Lacked the personnel to truly help freedmen integrate into society

# FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN TEXAS

- Education
  - Teachers difficult to recruit
  - Instruction not easy in an atmosphere promoting white supremacy
  - School supplies hard to find
  - 16 schools in 1865
- Some improvements were made in health care and social aid for blacks

# CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (1867-1870)

- *Reconstruction Act of 1867*
- Congress seized control of Reconstruction from President Johnson
  - More Radical Republicans were coming into Congress; outnumbering moderates and Democrats
- The act divides the South into 5 military districts
  - First District: Virginia
  - Second District: North and South Carolina
  - Third District: Georgia, Alabama, and Florida
  - Fourth District: Arkansas and Mississippi
  - Fifth District: Texas and Louisiana
- Republican Party was established in Houston on 4 July 1867
- All ex-Confederate states required to write new constitutions with all races participating in the constitutional conventions (blacks must be granted suffrage and allowed to hold public office)

# RADICAL RECONSTRUCTION



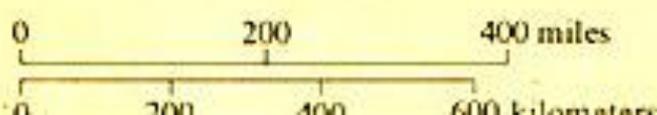
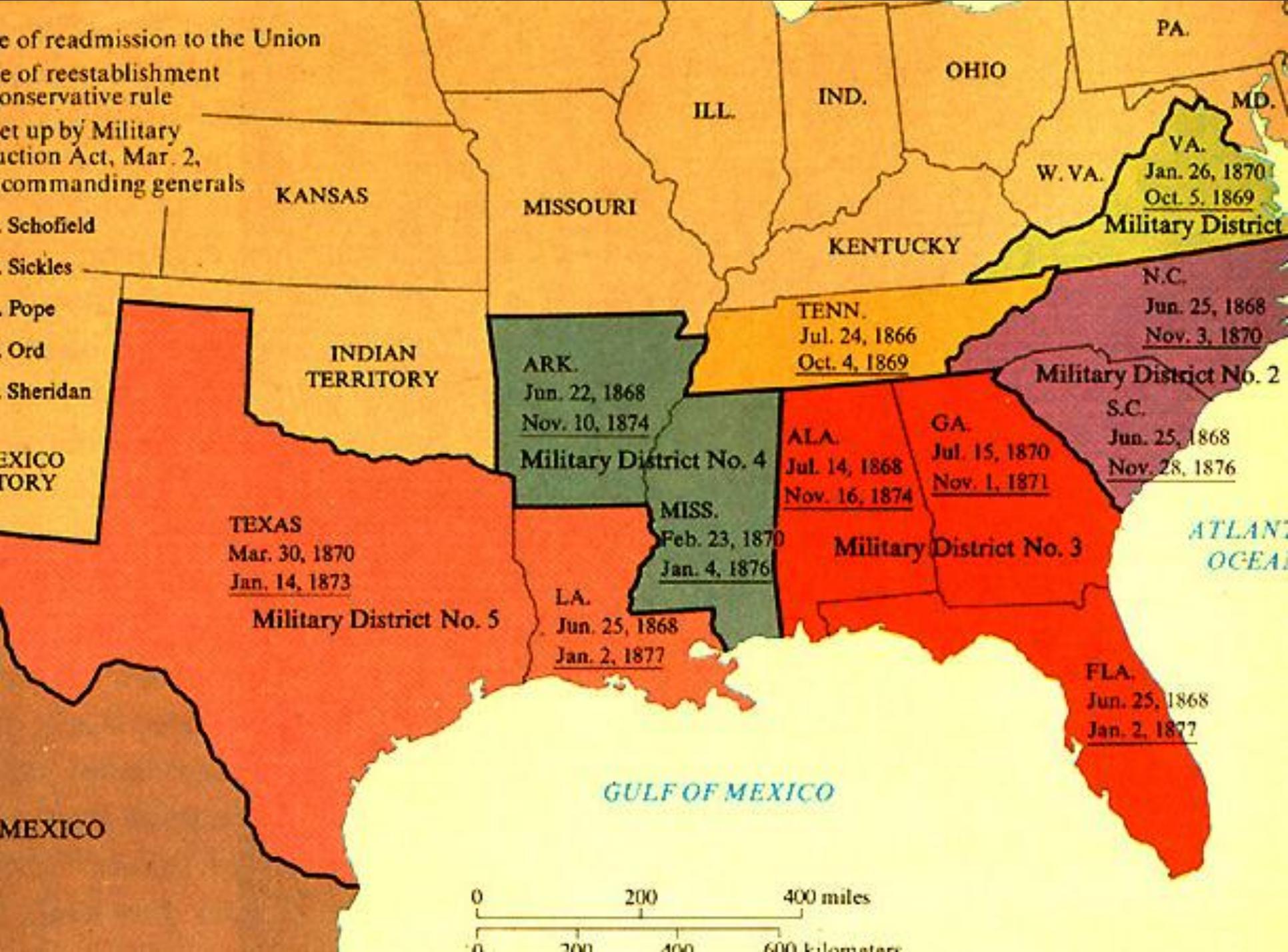
- Radical Republicans were furious with President Johnson's Plan for Reconstruction. They believed that the South should be punished for the War and be "forced" to accept reforms.
- Many radical Republicans also wanted equality for the newly freed slaves, at the expense of white southerners if necessary.

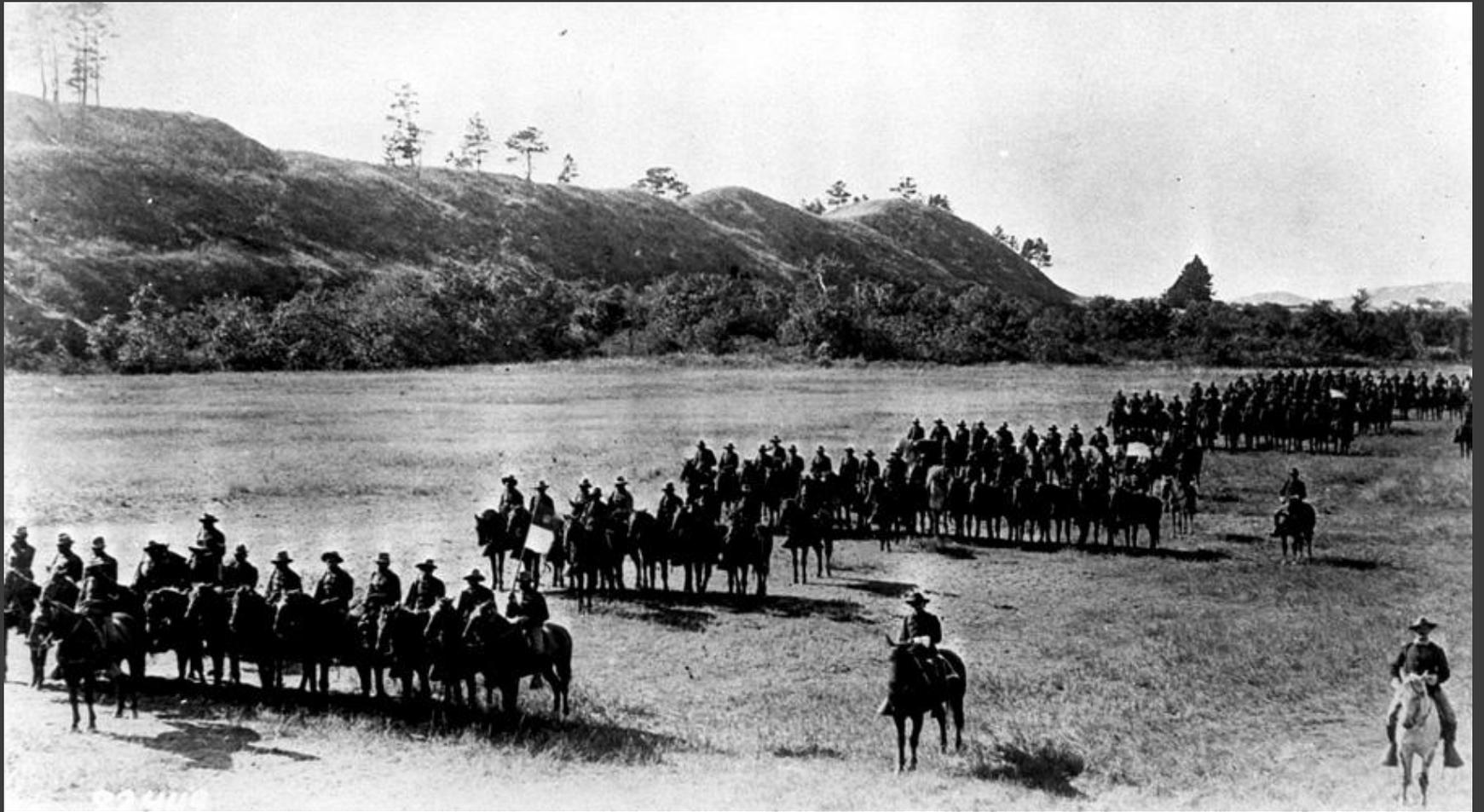
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The 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at Ft. Davis

# CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (1867-1870)

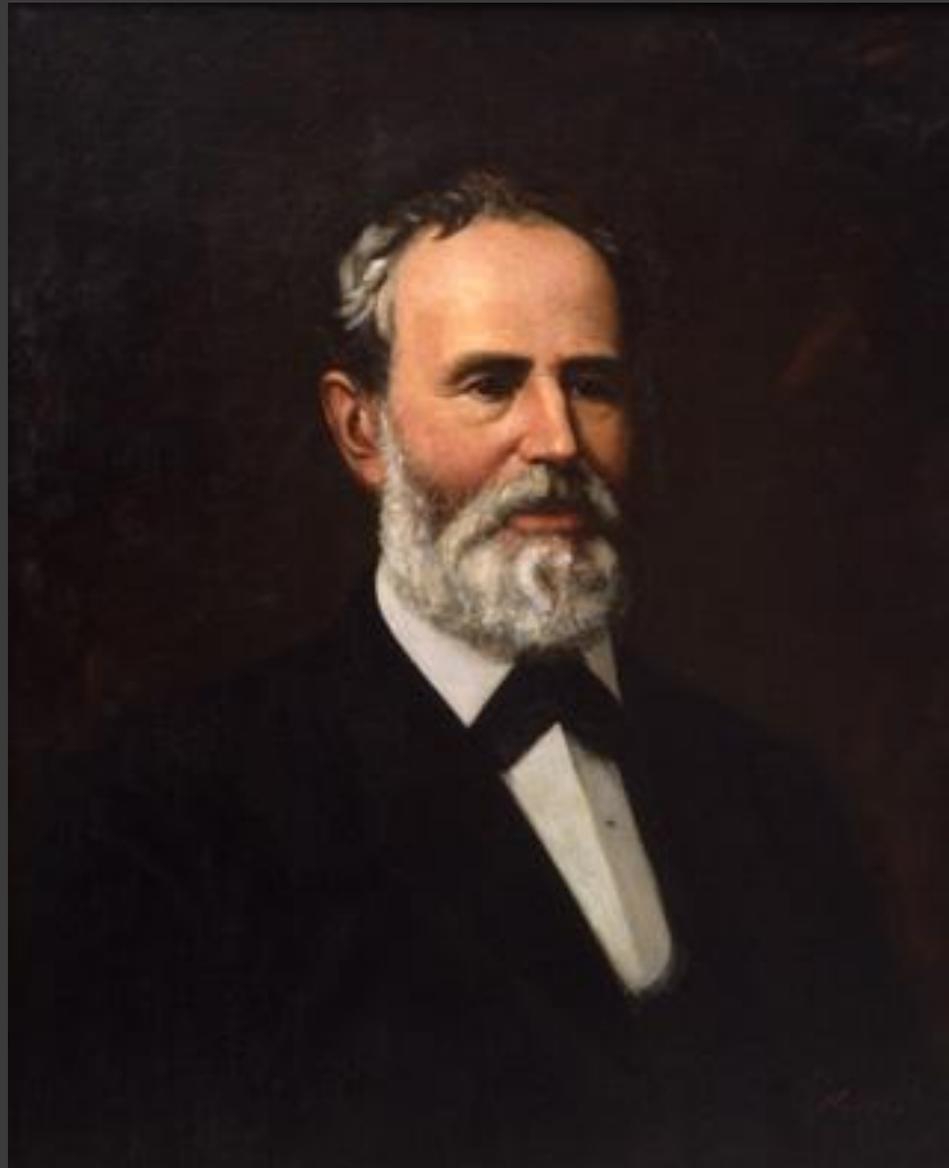
- *Johnson Gets Impeached*
- Congress attempts to impeach him twice; they succeed the second time
- Charge him with violating the Tenure of Office Act
- He narrowly escapes being thrown out of office
  - Good lawyers convince Congress he would play nice until the end of his term
- Johnson becomes the first president to get impeached and the first to succeed an assassinated president
- *14<sup>th</sup> Amendment*
- Guarantees citizenship for all freedmen
- *15<sup>th</sup> Amendment*
- Guarantees suffrage (right to vote) to all men 21 years of age or over, regardless of race, color, or previous servitude (slavery)
  - Feminists enraged because they were not included
  - No mention of poll taxes or literacy tests led to widespread abuse

# TEXAS UNDER MARTIAL LAW

- General Philip Sheridan removes Texas Governor Throckmorton from office effective 30 July 1867
- Elisha M. Pease is appointed as the interim governor
- An election for a constitutional convention is announced for February 1868



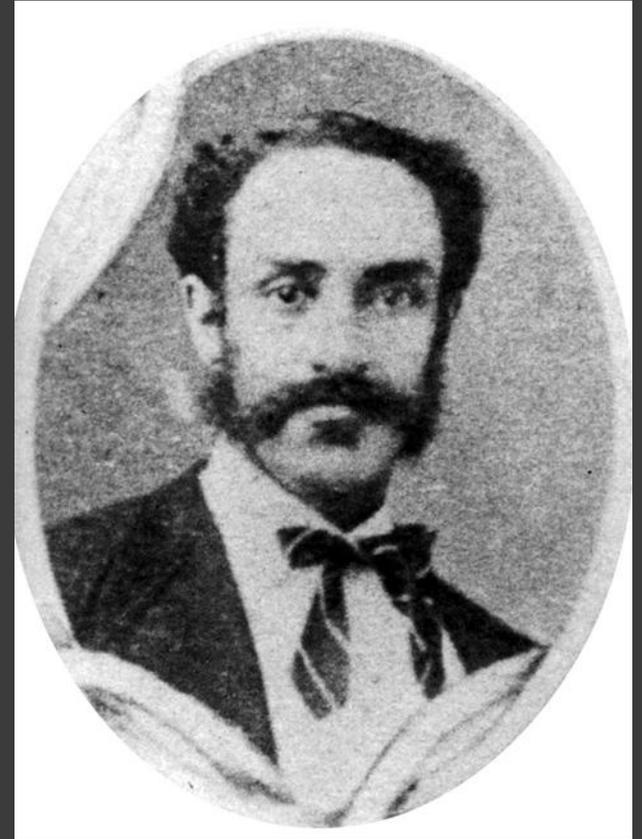
Gen. Philip H. Sheridan



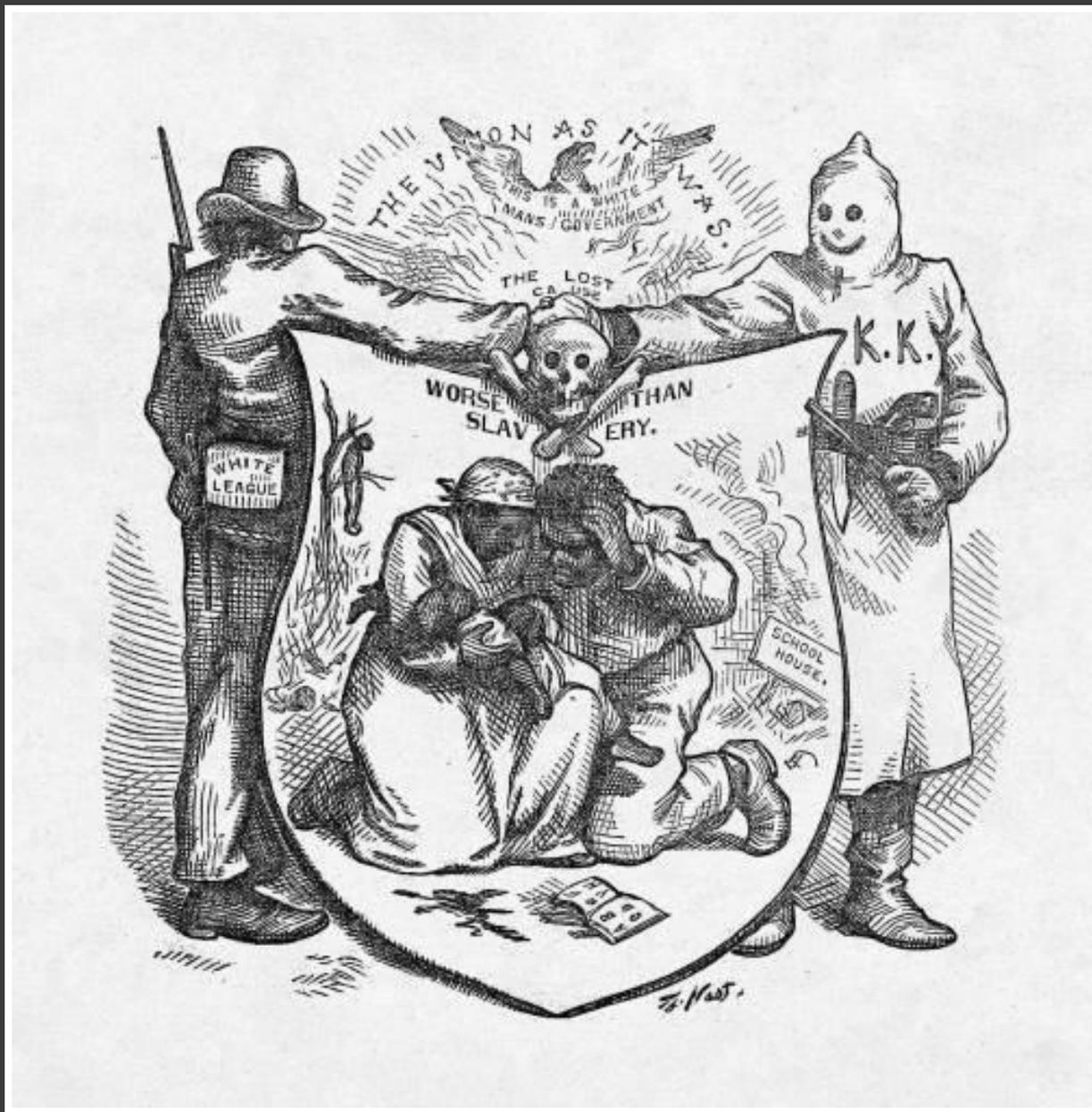
Elisha M. Pease – Texas Governor  
Congressional Reconstruction

# CONVENTION OF 1868

- Black Participation
  - Republicans invited blacks to participate
  - George T. Ruby of Galveston was the most prominent
  - Black leaders demanded that voter registration boards included black members
- Roughly 48,000 freedmen registered to vote for the Convention of 1868
- Despite violence, over 82 percent of registered blacks voted in February 1868



George T. Ruby



Rise of the Ku Klux Klan

# RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

- *Reaction to Reconstruction*
- Klan was created in 1865 immediately after the end of the Civil War
  - Created by a group influenced by the theatre
  - Attempting to conceal their purpose under the symbolism of carnival
- Really did not gain steam until Radical Reconstruction in the late 1860s
- The group was essentially a reaction to two things:
  - A rising number of discontented veterans in the South
  - Dramatically altered social situation where whites had to reclaim white supremacy
  - Waco's own Felix H. Robertson was most likely a member (his son was a member of the Klan in the 1920s)

# RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

- The Klan becomes tied with the Democratic Party
- Essentially a para-military force that served the interests of Democrats, planters, and all those who wished for white supremacy to return to an “Old South”
- The group relates well to the “Lost Cause” mentality
- President Grant effectively uses federal power to silence the Klan throughout the rest of Reconstruction
  - Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871
- They never really go away; just go underground until the 1920s

# THE 1869 ELECTION

- Results:
  - Davis wins; 39,838 to 39,005 (Hamilton)
    - Democrats did not want to support a man who fled to the North and engaged in their politics (Hamilton)
  - Constitution of 1869 approved
    - 72,366 to 4,928
- Pease resigned in September 1869
  - Texas military commander Gen. Reynolds appoints Davis governor in January 1870
- After the U.S. Congress received results of the election, Texas was restored to the Union on 30 March 1870
  - President Ulysses S. Grant signed the bill

# BLACKS IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

- The Twelfth Legislature (1870-1871)
  - 2 black senators
  - 12 black representatives
  - Constituted 12 percent of the membership
- George T. Ruby
  - Established a political base in Galveston
  - Became president of the Union League in 1868
  - Served as senator from Galveston from 1869-1873
- Matt Gaines
  - Self-educated slave who became a preacher after the war
  - Advocate in the Texas Senate for African-American causes and constant critic of those temperate on race issues

# DEMOCRATIC TAKE-OVER (1873)

- Democrats won majorities in both houses of the Thirteenth Legislature (1873)
- Democrats began an assault against Davis' programs
  - Cut his public school system
  - Abolished the state police
  - Changed the homestead policy to make land less affordable
- However, they passed an amendment to use land grants to entice railroad construction

# FREEDMEN

- Sharecropping
  - Farmers delivered a portion of their year's crops to the landowner for:
    - Land to farm
    - Planting necessities (fertilizer, seed, etc.)
    - Tools
    - Farm animals
  - Some degree of independence
    - Farmers established their own work schedules
  - Chronic indebtedness was normal for sharecroppers
    - Interest rates on bank loans roughly 15%

# FREEDMEN

- Potential Jobs
  - Cowboys (working ranches in East Texas)
  - State Police or Militia
  - Army service on the frontier
- Women's jobs
  - Worked in white households
  - Menial tasks for substandard wages
- Some black Texans managed to start businesses, but this was rare at the time

# FREEDMEN

- Religion
  - Independent black churches rose in number during Reconstruction
  - Churches served many functions:
    - Religious services
    - Social activities
    - Educational instruction
    - Political planning
    - Workforce planning
  - Religion reinforced people's sense of morality and proper behavior
  - A majority of blacks joined the Baptist denomination during this era
    - Methodists also represented a significant percentage

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- Democrats demanded a new constitution
  - Wanted to erase Reconstruction mandates
  - Wanted to overturn Republican successes for freedmen
  - Return to limited government
- Davis calls a convention in 1875
  - 75 of the 90 delegates were professed Democrats
  - 41 farmers made the largest professional bloc
    - Lawyers came in second with 29
- Notable delegates
  - Lawrence “Sul” Ross
  - John S. “Rip” Ford

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- Return to Jacksonian Democracy
  - Limited gov't and frugality
  - Used the Constitution of 1845 as a model
  - Prohibited the state from chartering banks
  - Texas could regulate corporations and railroad companies
  - State debt ceiling of \$200,000
  - Virtually abolished the public school system
  - Set a strict tax rate

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- Suffrage and Poll Taxes
  - Delegates from East Texas wanted a poll tax
    - To disfranchise blacks (most could not afford to pay the tax)
  - Disfranchised women
  - Essentially, it was a return to Jacksonian concepts of universal manhood suffrage

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- The Executive Branch
  - Governor had traditional charge to oversee the execution of laws, but had no real authority to do so
    - Goes back to distrust of central government
  - Term of office cut from 4 to 2 years
  - Governor could veto legislation
    - Legislature can override with 2/3s vote
  - Governor can call special session of the legislature
  - Voters would now choose:
    - Lieutenant governor
    - Comptroller
    - Treasurer
    - Land Commissioner
    - Attorney General

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- Education
  - Many argued that parents should bear responsibility for education
    - White landowners did not want to pay to educate black children
  - Grangers advocated for local control of education
    - Can save money and establish schools that worked around crop cycles
  - Constitution passed a \$1 tax on males between 21 and 60 to support “state education”
    - No provisions for local taxes and funding for community schools
  - Public education remained inadequate as a result

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- Public School Land
  - Constitution endowed a permanent school fund from land previously set aside
  - The University of Texas took away the 3 million acres granted in 1858
    - However, it was granted 1 million acres over pools of oil

# CONSTITUTION OF 1876

- Adoption
  - Approved 53 to 11 in November 1875
- Legacy
  - Texas still operates under the Constitution of 1876
  - One of the longest and convoluted state constitutions in the country
    - Alabama and California edge out Texas on length
  - The document is highly restrictive in nature
    - State of Texas only has powers explicitly granted
    - No “Necessary and Proper Clause”
    - Essentially functions as a limiting document
- Revision
  - As of November 2009, 643 amendments proposed, 467 approved

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

STATE OF TEXAS,

ADOPTED BY THE

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION,

BEGUN AND HELD

AT THE CITY OF AUSTIN,

ON THE

Sixth day of September, 1875.

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OFFICIAL.

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GALVESTON:

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