

“Bleeding Kansas” 1854-1861  
Chapter 5  
Missouri Compromise 1820

- Missouri = slave state
- Maine = free state
- Keep the balance of the states in Congress
- 36<sup>0</sup>- 30' line of separation for the future
- The balance of political power was very important to both regions. When Alabama joined the Union as a slave state in 1819, it made the balance of power equal in the legislature. The Senate had 22 members from slave states and 22 from free states.

Map  
Compromise of 1850

- California added as a Free State
- Even up again
- Texas was added as slave state 1845

Slavery

- First slaves brought in 1619
- Minor use
- South used as source of labor
- King Cotton – Cotton Gin – Eli Whitney

**Kansas/Nebraska Act**

- **May 30, 1854**
- **Created twin territories of Kansas and Nebraska**
- **U.S. law authorizing the creation of Kansas and Nebraska, west of the states of Missouri and Iowa and divided by the 40th parallel. It repealed a provision of the Missouri Compromise (1820) that had prohibited slavery in the territories north of 36° 30', and stipulated that the inhabitants of the territories should decide for themselves the legality of slaveholding.**

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Popular Sovereignty

• **Popular Sovereignty - Steven A. Douglas**

- **let the people decide**
- **-- against Missouri Compromise 1820**

Kansas organization

• **Fall of 1854 president Franklin Pierce appoints Andrew H. Reeder territorial governor**

New England Immigrant Aid Society

- Henry Ward Beecher  
Southern Emigrant Aid Society
- Group dedicated to planting pro-slavery settlers into Kansas
- FS 1856
- 30 new emigrants
- Dark Lantern society

“Uncle Tom’s Cabin”

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• **Harriet Beecher Stowe (June 14, 1811 - July 1, 1896)**

• Daughter of Congregational minister Lyman Beecher and Roxana Foote Beecher. She is best known for writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in which she expresses her moral outrage at the institution of slavery and its destructive effects on both whites and blacks. She portrays the evils of slavery as especially damaging to maternal bonds, as mothers dread the sale of their children. Written and published in installments between 1851 and 1852, publication in book form brought financial success.

• Publishing nearly a book a year between 1862 and 1884, Stowe moved from her early focus on slavery in such works as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and another novel, *Dred*, to deal with religious faith, domesticity, and family life.

• “ So you’re the little lady that caused such a great war”- Abraham Lincoln

Free State vs. Pro-slavery

- Kansas becomes the battle ground that will lead to Civil War

## Sumner / Brooks incident

- **Charles Sumner**- Senator from Massachusetts makes a famous speech in the Senate titled "The Crimes Against Kansas" in which he accuses the South as the perpetuator of the violence in Kansas over the slavery issue before its citizens. He goes on to name names and lay blame to said individuals. One name in particular was noticed by a Congressman from the state of South Carolina. The congressman recognized his cousin's name and the remarks made there after and took offense. Congressman **Preston Brooks** took the challenge to a violent end when he marched into the Senate Chamber with walking stick in hand and brutally bludgeoned Senator Sumner at his desk. **Thus demonstrating that the violence in Kansas was contagious and had infected the hallowed halls of the national legislature.** Brooks was immediately censured and removed from Congress to return to South Carolina and a hero's welcome complete with replacement walking sticks for the one broken over Sumner's head. Sumner required six months to recover from the beating and Brooks was re-elected to his vacant seat in the next general election.

## Jayhawkers

- Jayhawking was a synonym for stealing, and Jayhawkers stole, burned, and occasionally murdered for the Union cause in the guerilla warfare that raged in the area before, during, and after the Civil War. Their Confederate counterparts were called Bushwhackers and were cut from nearly the same cloth as Jayhawkers. Both were quasi-military forces made up so-called border ruffians who used the war as an excuse to continue the violence that began with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. Occasionally one or the other factions would contribute a significant military action to the war effort, but their style of warfare was mostly an embarrassment to their governments. Bushwhackers such as "Bloody" Bill Anderson and William C. Quantril recruited murderers such as Frank and Jesse James and their cousins, the Younger brothers. They used these savages to pillage stagecoaches, banks,

and towns, and to massacre any Union soldiers they could catch. Jayhawkers were generally not as blood thirsty as Bushwhackers but were as ruthless in other ways. Led by men such as horse thief Charles R. "Doc" Jennison and U.S. Congressman James H. Lane, they preyed upon the friends and families of the Bushwhackers. By the end of the war, Jayhawkers had turned the western counties of Missouri into a depopulated and burned-out wasteland.

**Charles "Doc" Jennison**

John Brown

Painting from the Metropolitan Museum of Art  
"Last Moments of John Brown" T. Hovenden  
Fanatic John Brown

- Came to Kansas from Ohio
- Settled near Osawatomie
- Very well known "abolitionist"
- Responsible for several murders

## Brown's Raid at Harper's Ferry

- Abolitionist believe in immediate end to slavery
- Brown felt the only way was through bloodshed
- Need an Army
- Need weapons for army
- Arm the slaves of the south
- Capture arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia
- Kills U.S. troops
- U.S. Army called in under the command of Robert E. Lee
- Lee captures Brown
- Put on trial sentenced to death

## Bushwhackers

- William T. Anderson
- "Bloody Bill"

Territorial Government  
Statehood Process

- Territory must apply to Congress for Statehood
- Population requirement
- Constitution must be written and approved by the citizens of the territory (popular sovereignty)
- Congress must approve of the State's Constitution

Topeka Constitution 1855

- Four constitutional conventions were convened during the Kansas territorial period (Topeka, 1855; Lecompton, 1857; Leavenworth, 1858; and Wyandotte, 1859). Each convention drafted a constitution under which the delegates hoped the territory would be admitted to the Union.
- The first constitution resulted from a movement--the Topeka movement--in reaction to contested elections that gave the proslavery party initial control of Kansas' territorial government. Free-staters gathered in convention at Lawrence on August 14 and Big Spring on September 5, 1855 and delegates assembled at Topeka on October 23, 1855, to draft a constitution. The document was approved on December 15 by a vote of 1,731 to 46. **The Topeka Constitution prohibited slavery but excluded free blacks from the state. It also limited suffrage to white males and "every civilized male Indian who has adopted the habits of the white man." Congress rejected this constitution and the accompanying request for Kansas to be admitted to the Union.**

Proslavery raid on Lawrence

- On the 20th of August, 1856 a body of between three and four hundred crossed the State line at sundown. Riding all night, they reached Lawrence at daybreak. They dashed into the town with a yell, shooting at everybody they saw. The surprise was complete. The hotel, and every point where a rally would be possible, was seized at once,

and the ruffians then began the work of destruction. Some of the citizens escaped into the fields and ravines, and some into the woods, but the larger portion could not escape at all. Numbers of these were shot down as they were found, and often brutally mangled. In many cases the bodies were left in the burning buildings and were consumed. The Rebels entered the place about five o'clock, and left between nine and ten. Troops for the relief of the town were within six miles when the Rebels went out. One hundred and forty-three were left dead in the streets, and about thirty desperately wounded. The main street was all burned but two stores. Thus, about seventy-five business houses were destroyed, and nearly one hundred residences. They destroyed something near two millions of property, left eighty widows and two hundred and fifty orphans, as the result of their four hours' work. Scenes of brutality were enacted, which have never been surpassed in savage warfare. The picture is redeemed only by the fact that women and children were in no case hurt."

Potawatomie Massacre

- John Brown revenging the destruction of Lawrence and the attack on Senator Sumner
- With four of his sons and two followers butcher five pro-slavery men camped along Potawatomie Creek
- James P. Doyle, Drury Doyle, William Doyle, Allen Wilkinson, and William Sherman

Battle of Black Jack

- Henry Pate – proslavery leader
- Fight with John Brown and his men near Baldwin City
- Claimed to be the first organized military battle in Kansas
- Brown wins
- Takes most of Pate's men prisoner  
later released to Col. Edwin Sumner and J.E.B. Stuart
- Proslavery group retreats to Osawatomie
- Destroy four houses

#### Lecompton Constitution 1857

- **Three miles north is Lecompton, famous in the latter 1850's as headquarters of the Proslavery party in Kansas. The "bogus" legislature of 1855 made it the territorial capital and Congress appropriated \$50,000 for a capitol building which was never completed. Lecompton was served by stagecoach, steamboat, and ferry. With a land office and other Federal Agencies, it prospered until the downfall of the slave power in Kansas. Gov. Charles Robinson and many free-state leaders were imprisoned there during 1856-1857. Still to be seen is the legislative hall in which the Lecompton Constitution was framed in 1857.**
- Lecompton Constitution written by proslavery group
- Fraudulent election
  - ◆ Vote early, vote often
  - ◆ 5000 citizens - 6800 votes cast
  - ◆ Congress refuses admittance

#### Leavenworth Constitution 1857

- Free state government
- Territorial Governor of Kansas did not sign

- Kansas refused statehood
- #### Wyandotte Constitution 1859

- Barred slavery in Kansas
- Fixed the boundary
- Congress accepts

#### Clarina Nichols

- 1810-1885
- Participated in Wyandotte Convention
- Fought for women's rights in new constitution
- It included three provisions dear to her heart: women's rights in child custody, married women's property rights, and equality in matters pertaining to public schools.

#### Kansas Statehood

- Kansas – 34<sup>th</sup> state on Jan. 29, 1861
- Charles Robinson first governor

#### Fort Scott

#### Fort Scott

- Established in 1842
- One of a series of forts along the Permanent Indian Frontier
- Named for General Winfield Scott
- 1842 – 1853 Protection era
- 1861 – 1865 Civil war era
- 1873- Railroad protection

#### The Garrison of Fort Scott

- 1842 Troops are stationed at Fort Scott with the purpose of protecting Emigrant Indian tribes from the East from white settlers in Missouri and from each other.
- Construction begins under the direction of Capt. Thomas Swords – The Quartermaster
- 4 officer duplexes, 3 barracks, a hospital, stables, bakery, quartermaster warehouse, headquarters building, blacksmith building, and guardhouse, as well as other buildings were completed by 1850 when funding was revoked
- Infantry and Dragoons were the first troops assigned to the Fort

- By 1852 the War Dept. viewed Fort Scott as unnecessary

- 1853 property of the Fort sold at auction
- 1854 Kansas becomes a territory

- The former officer's quarters, was opened as the Fort Scott or Free State Hotel.

- Located right across the parade ground was the Western or Pro-Slavery Hotel, a former infantry barracks.

- The residents of Fort Scott were predominately pro-slavers, while free-staters and abolitionists dominated the surrounding countryside. Radicals of each faction terrorized the town throughout the "Bleeding Kansas" era.

- By 1858, trouble had intensified in southeast Kansas. Radical elements from other theaters of the conflict were now converging on this area. James Montgomery became a leader of free state forces and was involved in several violent incidents.
- In April of 1858, Montgomery and his men fought U. S troops stationed at Fort Scott in the battle of Paint Creek. One soldier was killed in this encounter.

Marais des Cygnes Massacre

• *"...A stain that shall never bleach out in the sun!"*  
**John Greenleaf Whittier**  
**The Marais Des Cygnes Massacre**  
**published September 1858**

- In May of 1858, Montgomery and his men drove pro-slavery forces from Linn County. In retaliation, eleven free-staters were pulled out of their homes, taken to a ravine and shot down. This incident, known as the Marais des Cygnes Massacre was rumored to have been plotted in the Western Hotel.

- May 9, 1858
- Charles Hamilton- bushwacker ran out of Kansas
- 11 men lined up and shot
- All fell
- Five killed- five wounded- one unharmed
- <http://www.kansasphototour.com/massacre.htm>
- On June 5, 1858, Montgomery and his raiders tried to burn down the Western Hotel. Several shots were fired into the hotel and surrounding homes, but the hotel was saved.
- He ran a hay wagon up against the side of Western Hotel, set it on fire, broke out the windows, and of course the screams of fire, fire, arose, and the residents left the hotel, and they were fired upon, and many of them were wounded, none were killed.

Violence, such as this, caught the governor's attention. On June 15, 1858, he held a meeting at the Western Hotel in order to settle political unrest. While this meeting nearly broke out into a riot, it was successful. Peace and quiet reigned for a brief five-month period.

Montgomery and his raiders struck again in December of 1858 when he rescued Benjamin Rice, a free-soiler. Rice had been arrested for murder and was imprisoned in the Fort Scott Hotel. Montgomery claimed that he was jailed illegally, so he came to Fort Scott to free him.

- In the struggle following Rice's rescue, former Deputy Marshal John Little, a pro-slavery advocate, fired shots into the ranks of the free-staters. Little peered out of a window of his father's store (the former post headquarters) to observe the effects of the shooting. His movement was noted by a free stater who shot and killed him. Little's fiancé, Gene Campbell, wrote Montgomery a letter reprimanding him and saying that he was a "minister of the devil, and a very superior one too..."

- *Fort Scott*
- *January 4, 1859*

• *Montgomery:*

- *Listen to me. Today I heard that you said in a speech a few days ago that you were not sorry you had killed John Little. That he was not killed too soon. Can you before God say so? Oh, the anguish you have caused. He was one of the noblest men ever created, brave and true to his country and to his word. You can't prove that he ever injured an innocent person.*
- *A few days more and we were to have been married, then go south to trouble you no more. But through your influence, he was killed. He was sent to another world without even time to pray or to say goodbye to his friends. But thanks to God, though you did kill his body, you can't touch his soul. No. No, it is in the spirit land. Now the cry of "the Osages are coming!" can awaken him no more. He quietly sleeps in our little graveyard.*
- *But remember this. I am a girl, but I can fire a pistol. And if ever the time comes, I will send some of you to the place where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth". You, a*

*minister of God? You mean a minister of the devil, and a very superior one too. I have no more to say to you and your imps. Please accept the sincere regards of your future repentance.*

- 
- **Gene Campbell**

Civil War

**Lincoln elected Nov, 1860**

**Southern States secede**

**April 12, 1861**

**Southern forces fire on Fort Sumter, S.C.**

**Issue of Union vs. Confederation**

**Slavery**

Kansas in the Civil War

- 20,000 Kansas casualties
- Many volunteers
- Only major battle was at Mine Creek

Fort Scott in the War

- Headquarters of the Army of the Frontier
- General James G. Blunt
- Troops fought in KS., Mo., and Ark.
- Some much further east

- Fort Scott was reactivated by the United States Army during the Civil War and it became very large military complex, a large quartermaster supply depot or recruitment center, a training center and a haven for refugees during the Civil War. Thousands of troops stationed here and passed thorough Fort Scott at that time

- There were thousands of tons of quartermasters stores located here in Fort Scott, supplies, were purchased from local farmers, like hay and straw and animals and horses and mules, the quartermaster would be buying 500, 600, 700 mules at a time. He would be buying as much as 2,000 tons of hay at a time.

Black Troops

- The First Kansas Colored commenced forming under the direction of James H. "The Grim Chieftain" Lane in August 1862 and was mustered into U.S. service under the command of Colonel James M. Williams, formerly of the Fifth Regiment Kansas Volunteer Cavalry, on January 13, 1863. The delay was due to an opposition to the arming of black troops among many in the North and federal policy that reflected this prejudicial attitude. Despite the existence of a widespread national reticence, many Kansans advocated the use of black troops early on, and during the fall of 1862, a portion of the regiment engaged in battle with a rebel force at Butler, Mo., thus gaining distinction as the first "colored soldiers in the Union army" tested in battle

- Black troops were brought into the Union army in many places in the U.S.

- First was Fort Scott

- Total of about 2080 in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kansas Colored regiments

- 180,000 nation wide

Battle of Mine Creek

- **In October , 1864, a Confederate Army under Gen. Sterling Price was defeated near Kansas City. He retreated south, crossed into Kansas, and camped at Trading Post. Early on the morning of October 25 Union troops under Generals Pleasanton, Blunt, and Curtis forced him from this position, and a few hours later the Battle of Mine Creek was fought over these fields. Confederate forces were thrown into confusion as they tried to cross the steep slippery banks of the stream. In the close fighting on the bottoms hundreds of Rebel soldiers were captured, including General Marmaduke, who was taken by a 20-year-old private. Although Union forces missed a chance to destroy Price's army the defeat was decisive enough to end the threat of a Rebel invasion of Kansas. About 25,000 troops were engaged, more than in any other Kansas battle.**

- Battle of Mine Creek is also known as the Battle of Osage or the Battle of Marais des Cygnes

#### Quantrill's Raiders

- Band of outlaws and thieves
- Bloody Bill Anderson
- Frank and Jesse James
- Bob and Cole Younger
- Military goals put to the side of personal gain

#### Graphic Lawrence

##### William Clarke Quantrill

- The best known guerrilla on the Missouri side (and perhaps of the entire war) was **William Clarke Quantrill**. Born at Canal Dover, Ohio in 1837, Quantrill had come to Kansas in 1857 to farm. This effort failed and he went west to the Rockies to seek adventure. Back in Kansas just before the outbreak of the war, he cast his lot with the south and joined the Missouri Confederate troops led by Sterling Price. Dissatisfied with a lack of aggressiveness after the battle of Lexington, Missouri in September, 1861, he left the army to take a more active role--bringing guerrilla warfare to Kansas.

#### Destruction of Lawrence

- **The climax of Quantrill's guerilla career came on August 21, 1863, when he led a force of 450 raiders into Lawrence, Kansas, a stronghold of pro-Union support and the home of Senator James H. Lane, whose leading role in the struggle for free-soil in Kansas had made him a public enemy to pro-slavery forces in Missouri. Lane managed to escape, racing through a cornfield in his nightshirt, but Quantrill and his men killed 183 men and boys, dragging some from their homes to murder them in front of their families, and set the torch to much of the city.**

#### Conclusion of War

- April 9, 1865 Surrender at Appomatox Courthouse, Va.
- 600,000 deaths in four years
- Kansas moves on to the wild west days