## Slave Treatment Misconceptions

To say that there were no abuses of slaves would not be truthful. Yes, there were some abuses, but the percentage of slaves who were mistreated was very small. There were bad people living at that time just as there are here today. But, to teach that all the slaves were mistreated and regularly beaten, is a huge lie. For the most part, they were considered as family, with mutual love and respect.

## Reconstruction

What was "Reconstruction"? It was a period of time when the Yankees "reconstructed" the South into what they wanted it to be. Contrary to the name, it was not a time of rebuilding from the ashes of war. After the North invaded the South, it murdered, burned, and looted its way across the South. The killing of innocent civilians, black and white, was common. Homes, crops, barns, schools, libraries, churches, and businesses were burned. Farm animals were stolen or killed during the War. After the War, the Yankees enforced military rule over the South and set up its own governments over the people. Former Confederate soldiers had no voting rights or civil rights. Many uneducated blacks were put into positions of authority over the whites in order to create bad feelings between the races.
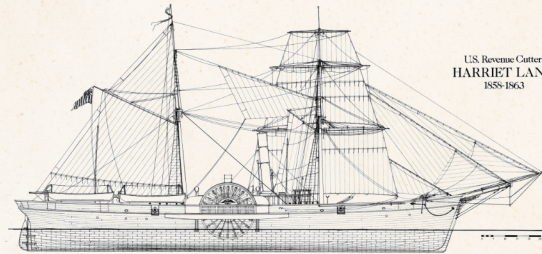
"Carpetbaggers" came South to take advantage of the people by raising property taxes so high that the farmers could not pay them. Then, the property was auctioned off to the highest bidder. These Yankees bought property for a fraction of what it was worth, and kicked off the former owners. This theft was common and widespread. Many blacks and whites suffered abuses from the Union League. This was a terrorist organization that would beat those who refused to vote for the Radical Republicans. Since there was no law and order for the Southerner, they took matters into their own hands and formed the original KKK, which had white and black members. They would fight against the terrorists, and over a period of time, the Union League backed off and the original KKK was disbanded. You should know that the original KKK was a good and necessary thing. It was NOT the same thing as the KKK of today.



*Bombardment of Fort Sumter*

## Fort Sumter

It is said that since the South fired the first shot at Ft. Sumter, it started the War. This is another false teaching that even most Southerners do not know. The Union army moved out of Ft. Moultrie into Ft. Sumter which was still under construction. Lincoln had said he would not resupply the troops there, yet he sent war ships to do just that. The one who fires the first shot is not necessarily the aggressor. It is the one who causes that shot to be fired who is the aggressor. Lincoln's plan was to maneuver the South into firing first in order to gain more support from the North. Most of the North was in favor of letting the South go in peace, but when it "fired upon the U.S. flag" , their attitude changed.



U.S. Revenue Cutter
HARRIET LANE
1858-1863

What most do not know is that the "first shot" was actually fired by the USS Harriet, a tax revenue cutter sent to collect the tariffs from South Carolina. So, not only did the South NOT fire the famous "first shot", but it was falsely blamed for firing it.

The South was paying unfair and excessive tariffs (taxes) and getting almost nothing from it. It legally withdrew from the Union to form its own country, just as our Founding Fathers had done when they withdrew from British rule and formed the United States. Lincoln could not bear to lose that money, so he invaded the Confederate States of America. The Union Army waged war against civilians, while the Confederate Army did not. Our Confederate ancestors fought with honor, and they deserve to be honored for what they did.

# SOUTHERN PERSPECTIVE

## YOUTH'S GUIDE
### to Understanding The War of 1861-1865

- Why was there a war?
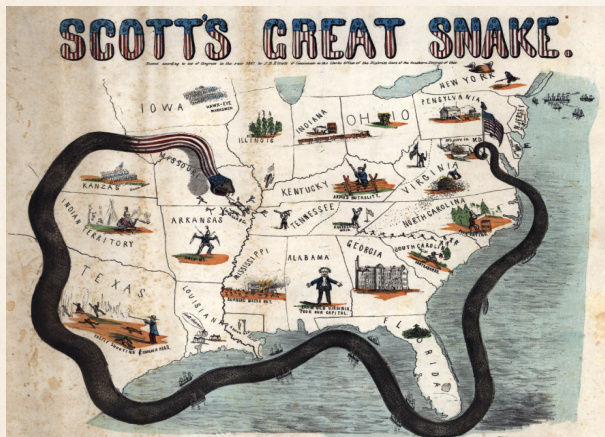- What caused it?
- Who started it?
- Was the war about slavery?

## The War Between the States (1861-1865)



Here you will learn facts about the War that you probably did not know. Why was there a war? What caused it, and who started it? Was the War about slavery, as we have been taught? We will go into this and help you understand this unnecessary and bloody period of our history. First of all, it was NOT a "Civil War", so let's get the terminology correct. It was The War of Northern Aggression, because the North (The United States) illegally invaded the South (The Confederate States of America). A Civil War is when two groups are fighting for the control of one government, or country. That was not the case here. The South (CSA) had legally withdrawn from the United States (Union) and established its own country, government, and money. The South (CSA) wanted only to be left alone. The North (Union) was controlled politically by the Republicans, while the South (CSA) was controlled politically by the Democrats. The two political parties of the 1800's were very different from the two parties of today.

Had Lincoln not invaded the South there would have been no war. The South was only defending itself, just as if someone broke into your home and your parents fought to protect you from harm.



*General in Chief Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott laid out his strategy to subdue the Confederate States, dubbed Scott's "Anaconda Plan".*

## Why Was There a War?

The short answer is because Lincoln invaded the South in order to force it back into the Union. Why did he want to do that? Because the South was paying 85% of the taxes which supported the entire country. Without this money, the North would be hurt financially. But, the Constitution says that no part of the country shall be taxed in order to benefit another part of the country. (Article I, Section 8).

That simply is not fair. The money from the South was helping the North's railroads, factories, and banks. The South was getting almost no benefit from the taxes it was paying to the government.

Some of the States got tired of this and voted to leave the U.S. They formed the Confederate States of America. When U.S. President Lincoln called for Virginia to provide soldiers to invade the seceded States, Virginia refused, and more States left the U.S. and joined the Confederacy.

## The Seeds of War

Many years before the actual war started, things were taking place that created tensions between the North and the South. As far back as 1796, Northern newspapers, and even preachers, told lies about the Southern people, calling them backwards, lazy, and no good. They called Southerners "demons", "savages", and "barbarians". Newspapers in Boston wanted to excite blacks in the South to rise up and murder the white people. The North spoke badly about the South due to slavery, but the North was making lots of money transporting the slaves from Africa to the U.S. and selling them to the North and the South. They blamed the South (and still do to this day) for slavery, yet they were getting rich from it.



*Linden Place Mansion is located in Bristol, Rhode Island. It was built in 1810 by slave trader, merchant, privateer and ship owner General George DeWolf. The DeWolf family fortune was built on the buying and selling of slaves. DeWolf and his brothers virtually built the economy of Bristol, Rhode Island.*

## Not About Slavery

Our schools, movies, books, news reporters, and politicians speak about the War being fought over slavery as if this were a simple fact. That is because this is what has been taught for many years. Those who win the wars write the history. They certainly are not going to write it and say they were wrong, even though they were. The truth is, there were more than 429,000 slaves in the Union during the War, and West Virginia, (which was formed illegally) was admitted into the Union as a slave state. So, it makes no sense to say the North was "fighting to free the slaves" in the South while it had slaves also. If the North was "fighting to free the slaves", why did it not first free its own slaves? In fact, 300,000 Union soldiers owned slaves, so what were they fighting for? Common sense tells us the War was not fought over slavery. Many slaves were already being freed in the South, and had there been no war, slavery would have died a natural death. The slaves would have been gradually brought into society with skills needed to work and support themselves. Unfortunately, that is not what happened.

## The War Destroyed Everything

The War destroyed everything in the South, including slavery. With homes and farms burned and destroyed, and 25% of the male population killed, as well as many civilians (including blacks), nothing was the same anymore. Many thousands of blacks died of starvation after the war, so, if the Union cared about them, why did they allow them to starve?

## Slave Life

Contrary to what is usually taught about the life of the slaves, for the vast majority of them, they were happy and treated very well. It was not the "land of whips and chains", but of mutual love, respect, and friendship. The black slaves in the South were better fed and had a longer life expectancy than the free blacks in the North. They could grow their own gardens, sell what they grew, and could even hire themselves out at times to other farmers. They were housed, clothed, fed, and had the best medical care available at the time. There were free blacks in the South who owned slaves, but this is never taught in our schools and universities.

To get a better understanding of what their lives were really like, you can read the Slave Narratives. During the Great Depression of the 1930's, journalists were sent South to interview former slaves who were still living at that time. What they discovered was that most of them missed the days when they were slaves, and the close relationships they had with the white people then. Reconstruction changed all of that.