

THE CIVIL WAR: States Which Seceded

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected the sixteenth President of the United States. His election to the presidency was the final blow to the South and led directly to the break-up of the Union. Five months after his election, the North and South were engrossed in a bloody civil war. This was the culmination over thirty years of debate about the slavery and extension of slavery into new territories.

The first state to secede from the Union was South Carolina. Significantly, this was not the first time that the people of South Carolina had discussed secession. During the debate over tariffs in the 1830s, South Carolina seriously considered secession. Fortunately, John C. Calhoun helped to solve the problem and South Carolina remained in the Union. But on December 20th, 1860, South Carolina held a secession convention in Charleston. The debate was quick and short. Representatives voted unanimously, 169 to 0 for secession. The rupture of the Union had finally occurred, and the secession of South Carolina opened the floodgates as four more states from the Deep South quickly joined her.

In early January 1861, Mississippi held a convention in Jackson to consider secession. Delegates voted 84 to 15 to secede from the Union. On January 9th, 1861, Mississippi joined South Carolina. Florida joined the secession ranks the next day on January 10th. Her convention had met in Tallahassee and had voted 62 to 7 for secession. On January 11th, Alabama passed her secession resolution. The Alabama delegation had met in Montgomery and had voted 61 to 39 for secession. On January 19th, Georgia called delegates to Milledgeville and voted 209 to 89 for secession. A few weeks later Louisiana became the sixth state to leave the Union. Her convention met in Baton Rouge on January 26th and voted 113 to 17 for secession. Ironically, as Louisiana was leaving the Union, Kansas was admitted on January 29th.

Texas was the seventh state to leave the Union. On, February 1st, Texans met in Austin and voted 166 to 7 for secession. Interestingly, the Union commander of the Department of Texas was Brigadier General David Twiggs, a Georgian. Upon secession, he ordered all military forces and stores under his command turned over to Texas authorities. On March 1st, the United States dismissed Twiggs from the Regular Army. Two months later in May 1861, the Confederate States appointed him Major General in the Provisional Army of the Confederacy.

By early February, three months after Lincoln's election, and a month before his inauguration, seven states had left the Union. These states agreed to send representatives to Montgomery, Alabama, to form a new government. These delegates elected Howell Cobb of Georgia President of the convention. On February 8th, the delegates adopted a Provisional Constitution and the Confederate States of America were born. On February 9th, the delegates elected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as Provisional President. Alexander Stephens of Georgia was chosen as the Confederate Vice President. On February 18th, Davis and Stephens were inaugurated as the first and last President and Vice President of the Confederacy.

On March 4th, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of the United States. Two days later, the Confederacy called for 100,000 volunteers for its provisional army. On March 11th, delegates adopted the Confederate Constitution.

Meanwhile, in Charleston, South Carolina, officials demanded the surrender of Fort Sumter. Major Robert Anderson commanded the small garrison and refused to surrender. With supplies running out, Lincoln informed South Carolina authorities that he planned to send supplies and reinforcements to the fort. On April 12th, 1861, at about 4:30 AM, South Carolina militia forces in Charleston opened fire on Fort Sumter. Thirty-four hours later, Anderson surrendered his command.

Two days after the surrender of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln declared a state of insurrection and called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion. The Northern states quickly answered the call, but the remaining Southern states that had not seceded refused to comply with Lincoln's request. Instead, four more Southern states left the Union. The first was Virginia. On April 17th, Virginia, the traditional leader of the South, passed a succession bill 88 to 55. Significantly, Virginians had voted down a similar bill on April 4th, by a vote of 89 to 45.

Lincoln followed Virginia's succession with an order to blockade all Southern ports. On May 3rd, Lincoln called for 42,000 three-year volunteers. Arkansas then joined the Confederacy on May 6th. The state convention had met at Little Rock and had voted 69 to 1 for secession. Tennessee seceded the same day. Earlier, on February 9th, Tennessee had held a statewide election and had rejected secession by a vote of 68,282 to 59,449. But with Lincoln's call for more volunteers, the Tennessee State Convention met at Jackson. Delegates voted 66 to 25 for secession.

A week later, on May 13th, Great Britain declared its neutrality. On May 16th, the Confederate Congress authorized the recruiting of 400,000 volunteers. Four days later, on May 20th, 1861, North Carolina became the last state to join the new Confederacy. State delegates met in Raleigh and voted unanimously for secession. All of the states of the Deep South had now left the Union. That same day, the Confederate Congress voted to move the capital to Richmond, Virginia. On May 23rd, citizens from eastern Virginia voted to join the Confederacy. Western Virginians wanted to remain in the Union.

Four slave states -- Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky -- did not secede from the Union. On April 29th, Maryland held a secession convention and delegates voted secession down 53 to 13. On May 20th, Governor Beriah Magoffin of Kentucky had declared that state's neutrality. Missouri held a secession convention in February at Jefferson City, but did not vote for secession. Delaware had all but abolished slavery by 1861. Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri became buffer zones between the North and the South. All three of these states provided troops to the Confederacy.

<i>State</i>	<i>Secession</i>	<i>Voting</i>	
South Carolina	Dec. 20, 1860	169-0	
Mississippi	Jan. 9, 1861	84-15	
Florida	Jan. 10, 1861	62-7	
Alabama	Jan. 11, 1861	61-39	
Georgia	Jan. 19, 1861	209-89	
Louisiana	Jan. 26, 1861	113-17	
Texas	Feb. 1, 1861	166-7	
Virginia	Apr. 17, 1861	88-55	April 12 th – South Carolina fires on Fort Sumter
Arkansas	May 6, 1861	69-1	
Tennessee	May 6, 1861	66-25	
North Carolina	May 20, 1861	Unanimous	May 23 rd – West Virginians vote to stay with Union
Maryland	Apr. 29, 1861	13-53	Slave state – does not secede
Kentucky	May 20, 1861		Slave state – governor declares neutrality
Missouri	February, 1861		Slave state – does not secede
Delaware	Does not secede		Technically a slave state – but abolished practice

U.S. Civil War: Confederate and Union States



Harry McCarthy wrote a song that chronicled the birth of the Confederate States of America. This was "The Bonnie Blue Flag" and follows:

*We are a band of brothers and native to the soil,
Fighting for the property we gained through honest toil.
And when our rights were threatened the cry rose near and far,
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.*

*Chorus: Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah for Southern Rights Hurrah.
Three cheers for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.*

*As long as the Union was faithful to her trust,
Like friends and brethren, kind were we and just,
But now when Northern treachery attempts our rights to mar,
We hoist on high the Bonnie Blue flag that bears a single star.*

Chorus

*First gallant South Carolina nobly made the stand,
Then came Alabama and took her by the hand.
Next, quickly Mississippi, Georgia and Florida,
All raised the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.*

Chorus

*Ye men of valor gather round the banner of the right,
Texas and Louisiana join us in the fight.
Davis, our beloved President, and Stephens statesmen are,
Now rally round the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.*

Chorus

*And here's to brave Virginia, the Old Dominion State,
With the young Confederacy at length has joined her fate.
Impelled by her example, now other states prepare,
To hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.*

Chorus

*Then here's to our Confederacy, strong we are and brave,
Like patriots of old we'll fight, our heritage to save.
And rather than submit to shame, to die we would prefer,
So cheer for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a single star.*

Chorus

*Then cheer boys, cheer, raise a joyous shout,
For Arkansas and North Carolina now both have gone out.
And let another rousing cheer for Tennessee be given,
The single star of the Bonnie Blue Flag has grown to be eleven.*

Source: eHistory (<http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/archive/articleview.cfm?aid=34>).