



*The South & the Slavery Controversy*

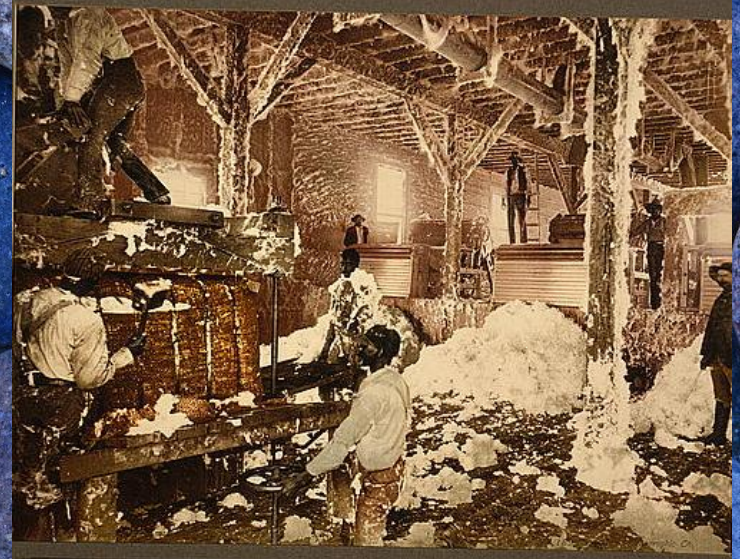
*1793-1860*

*American Pageant Chapter 16*



# *“Cotton is King!”*

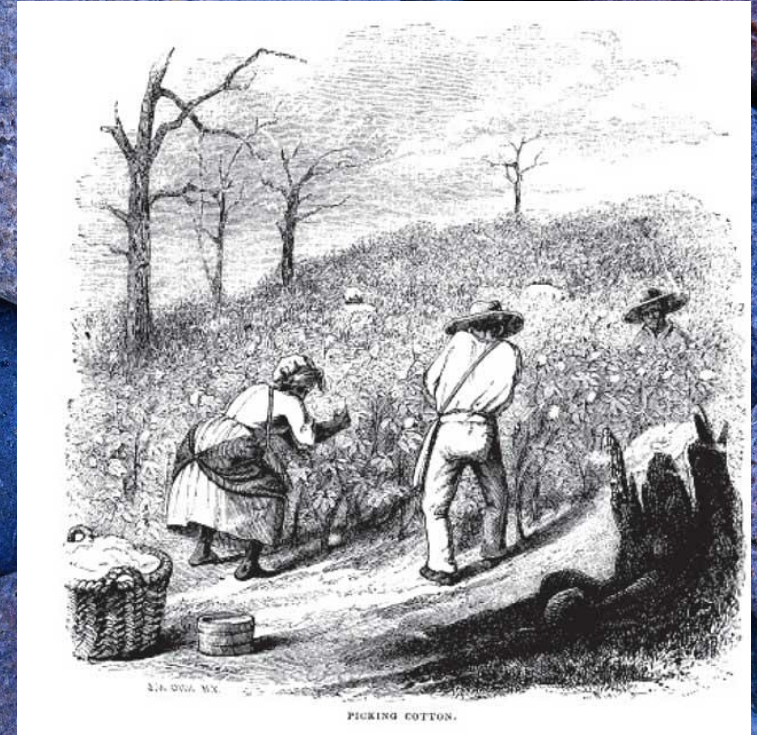
- King Cotton
  - Cotton Gin—revives slavery
  - South & others profited
    - ½ of American exports after 1840
    - Produced more than ½ world’s supply
    - 75% of British cotton
      - 1/5 of British income from products
    - Quick profits led to more fields/slaves





# *"Cotton is King!" continued*

- Dangerous (unstable) one-crop economy
  - Overspeculation of land & slaves
  - Slaves=investment of capital
  - Small farmers—had to sell land to large plantations
  - Moved west (gulf states) for fresh land





# *Planter "Aristocracy"*

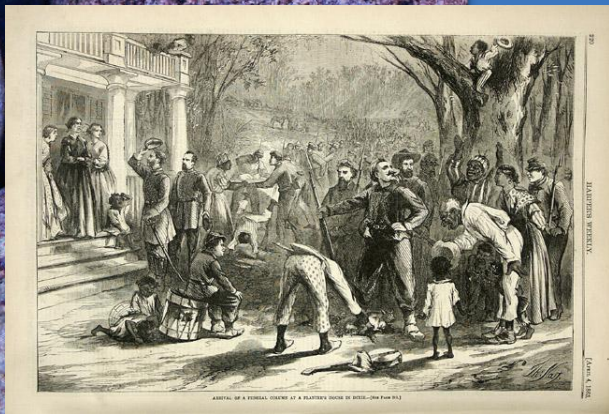
- By 1850—1/4 of whites owned slaves
  - 1,733 families owned 100 slaves or more
  - 89,732 families owned between 10-99
  - 255,288 families owned fewer than ten
  - 3/4 of whites—no slaves
    - Back country, mountain valleys
    - Subsistence farming
      - "poor white trash", hillbillies, etc.
    - Poor whites defended slavery
      - Hope of social mobility & racism
      - Exception-whites isolated in Appalachian range





# *Planter "Aristocracy" continued*

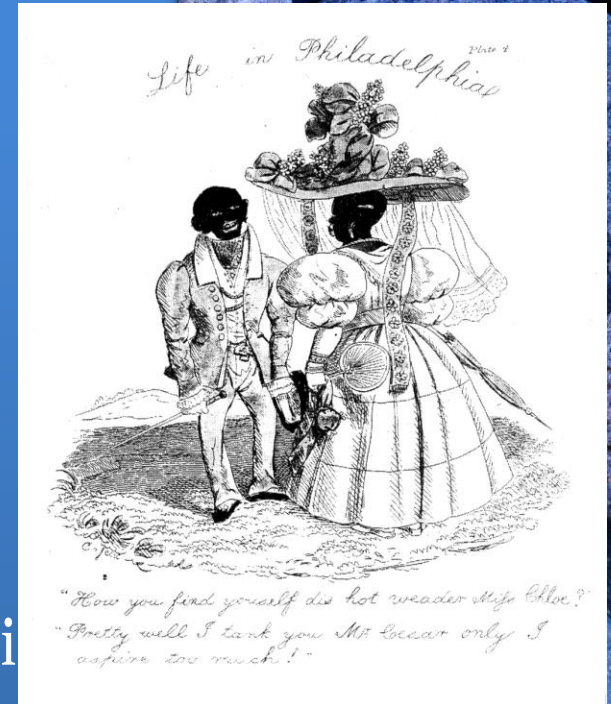
- Southern Oligarchy
  - government by the few
- "Medievalism" society
- Plantation women
  - Commanded sizeable household staff
    - Mostly female slaves
    - Believers in slavery





# Free Blacks

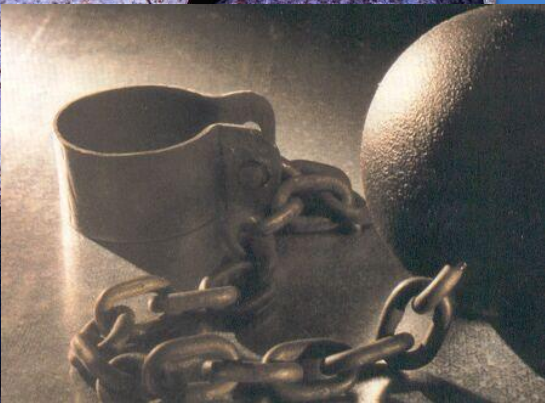
- 250,000 Southern Free Blacks
  - Bought freedom
  - Emancipated after Revolution
  - Some owned slaves
  - Vulnerable
- 250,000 Northern Free Blacks
  - Unpopular—job competition
- “Southerners liked the black as an individual but despised the race. Northerners professed to like the race but disliked individuals.”





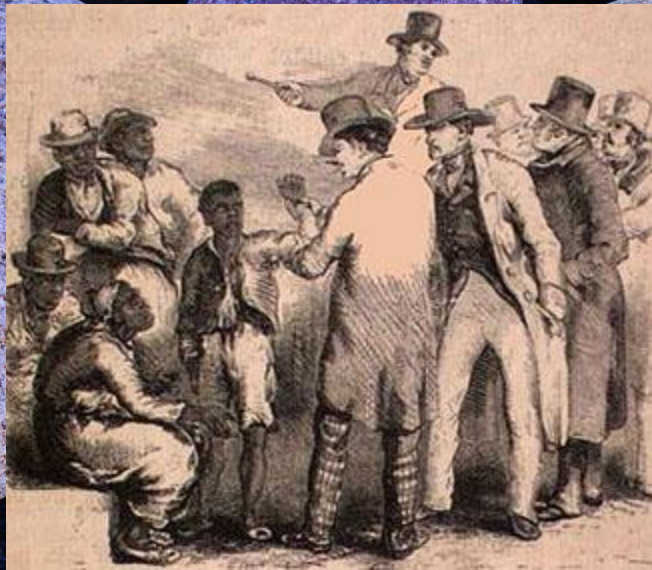
# *Slave life—“Peculiar Institution”*

- By 1860—4 million slaves
  - International slave trade illegal
    - Smuggling—those caught acquitted
  - Growth due to natural reproduction
  - Deep South—“Black Belt”
    - majority or near majority of Blacks
    - S.C., Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, & Louisiana
    - Life hardest for slaves (& frontier)
- “Breeding” discouraged
  - But sizeable mulatto population

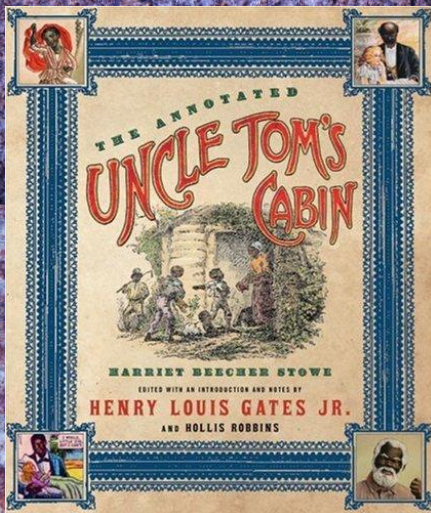




# Slave life--continued



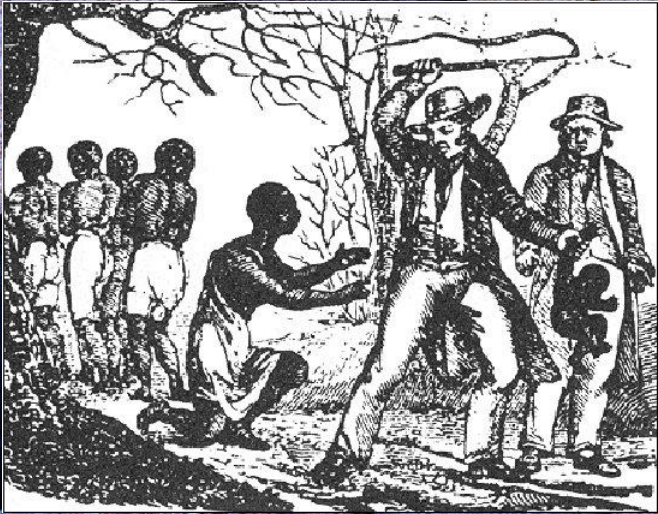
- Slaves=investment
  - Dangerous jobs--often Irish wage earners
- Slave auctions
  - most “revolting aspect of slavery”
  - Separation of families—psychological damaging
  - Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*





# *Slave life—continued more.*

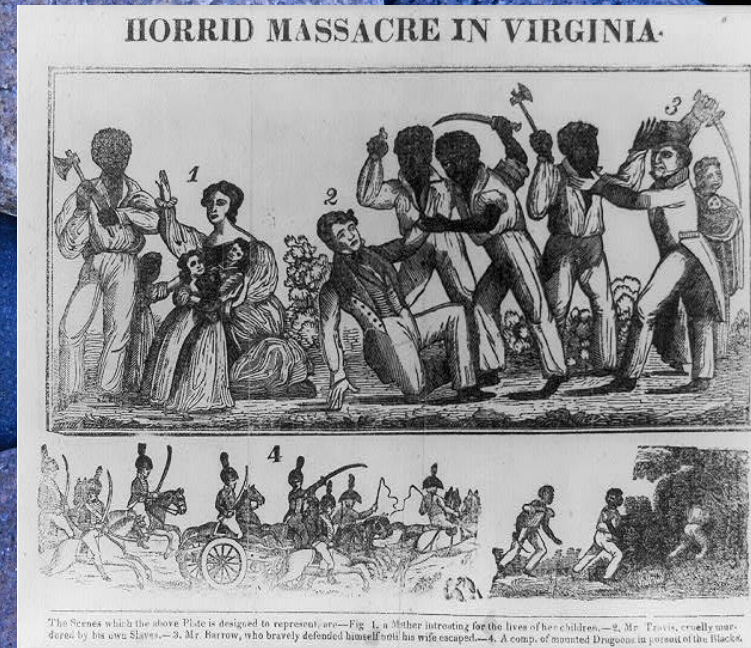
- Conditions varied, but all:
  - Hard work, ignorance, & oppression
  - Floggings common
    - “Difficult” slaves—sent to breakers
    - Investment/resale—discouraged some beatings
- Family life--persisted
  - Marriages (not recognized by whites), grandparents
  - Large plantations--better chance staying together
- Distinct African American slave culture
  - Mix of Christianity & African culture
    - I.E “responsorial” preaching—“amens”, etc.





# Slave Rebellions

- 1800 in V.A.—Slave named Gabriel
  - Betrayed by informers—leaders hanged
- 1822 in S.C.—Denmark Vessey (Free Black)
  - Betrayed by informers—30 hanged
- 1831 in V.A.—Nat Turner (Black preacher)
  - Uprising—killed 60 Virginians—women & children
  - Leaders killed
- Rebellions add to Southern paranoia
- “Quiet” rebellion
  - sabotage, slow down work, stealing goods





# Abolitionist Movements

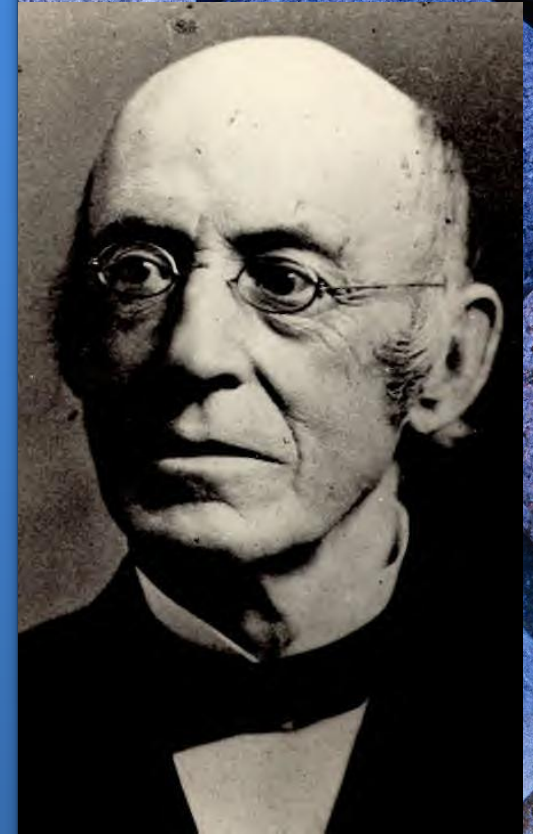
- Started—Quakers at time of Rev. War
- American Colonization Society—1817
  - Transporting Black back to Africa
  - Liberia—1822
  - But...by 1860 slaves native born Americans
- Second Great Awakening—spread cause
  - Theodore Dwight Weld—from “burned over district”
  - Arthur & Lewis Tappan— wealthy NY Merchants
  - Lyman Beecher—Lane Theological Seminary, Ohio
    - Father of Harriet Beecher Stow, Catharine Beecher, and Henry Ward Beecher





# Radical Abolitionism

- William Lloyd Garrison
  - *The Liberator*
    - 30 year anti-slavery newspaper, started 1831
  - Uncompromising—complete end of slavery
- Wendell Phillips
  - American Anti-Slavery Society (1833)
  - “Abolition’s golden trumpet”
  - Refused to wear cotton or eat sugar cane





# *Black Abolitionists*

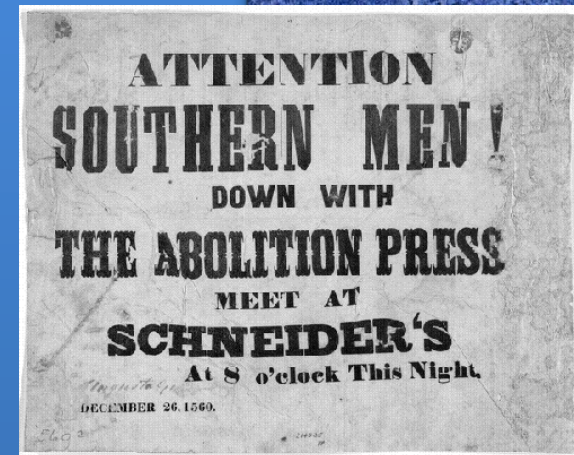
- David Walker
  - *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* (1829)
    - *Bloody end to white supremacy*
- Sojourner Truth — freed black woman
  - Fought for emancipation & women's rights
- Frederick Douglass — escaped slave
  - *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
  - Remarkable orator
  - Backed Liberty Party and Free Soil Party





# *Southern Reaction to Abolition*

- In 1830s—states tightened slave codes
- Nat Turner's rebellion—wave of hysteria
- Nullification Crisis of 1832
  - Paranoia—no toleration for abolitionists
- Claimed slavery was “good”
- 1836—Gag Resolution
  - Antislavery appeals to be tabled w/o debate
  - John Quincy Adams fought 8 years to repeal
- 1835—Post Office
  - Allowed to burn abolitionist literature in South





# *Northern Reaction to Abolition*

- Love of Constitution
  - Slavery a lasting bargain
  - Disliked talk of secession
- Economic stake
  - Shipping & textiles
  - Southern planters owed \$300 million to Northerners
- Hostility to radical abolitionists
  - I.E. Elijah P. Lovejoy killed in mob in Boston (1837)
- Most just opposed extending slavery in west
  - “Free-soilers”

