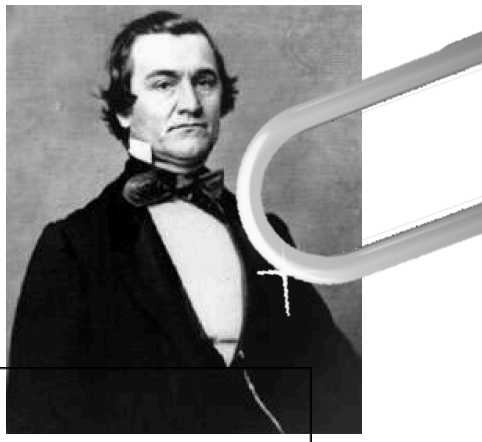


Name: William Yancey

Occupation: Congressman, Newspaper Owner

Location: Alabama

Testimony

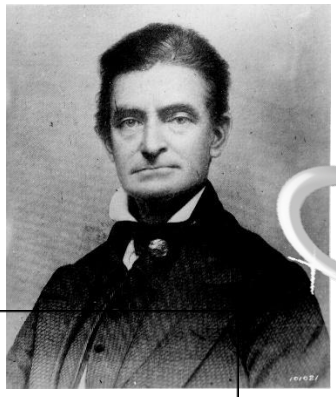
I have called for over a decade the need for secession and the formation of a Southern nation bound together in defense of slavery. I must confess that despite effort to become one I am not a large scale planter nor do I possess many slaves in my name. Rather, I own a few slaves while focusing my attention towards my newspaper business and uniting pro-Southern politicians. To be plain, I am an advocate of states' rights, especially those of Southern states.

Some individuals profess to know a "southern slave conspiracy," but I believe the truth to be opposite of that. Politicians such as Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln have continually argued for the limitation of slavery in the territories. This stance counters what the Supreme Court has recognized is the right of slave owners.

Secondly, a federal law, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, has been challenged by both citizens and states of the North will little to no repercussions by the federal government. Laws are being openly ignored. Finally, the raid on Harper's Ferry by that infamous terrorist John Brown was plotted in the North with many having knowledge of his plans. This led to an open conspiracy that went on until lives were taken. These actions demonstrate that it is not the South but the North who seeks to undermine the rule of law and generate hostile actions towards their sectional rival.

Northern politicians argue that we should respect the rights of the popular election. Yet, I do not believe that laws are based on election results, but rather they are founded upon constitutional principles. We recognize that the South is a minority and we celebrate the growth of America as a whole, yet we also urge that the numerically superior North respect that despite our smaller population we still have guaranteed rights and protections afforded to us by the Constitution.

The South has shown no aggression towards its neighbor. It does not intend to do so-we ask that you allow us to secede peacefully so that we can continue to maintain the institutions that make the South special.



Name: John Brown

Occupation: Abolitionist

Location: Boston, Massachusetts

Testimony

I recognize that over the past few years my actions have drawn the anger of many of my fellow countrymen, especially in the South. To fight brutal slavery, brutal means are necessary. Violent rebellions, such as that of Nat Turner or myself, are models of bravery that should be applauded. If only I had been successful at Harpers Ferry, perhaps slavery could have been wiped away; perhaps we would not have had such a bloody and devastating war.

Slaveholders and their cruel system are a disease upon the moral and religious nature of our country. Their treatment of slaves as sub-human is a disgrace to the law of God. As a boy, I stayed with a slave owner for a brief time and witnessed a child, close to my age, beaten on a daily basis for nothing he should have been blamed for. The violent acts forced upon the female slave victims reveals the interests of the slave holders are anything but Christian-like. My religious beliefs inspire me to seek something better.

I am convinced that no other means beyond violence are effective. There is a slave power conspiracy that holds our federal government in its tight grip. The *Dred Scott* case reveals the control of the Supreme Court by slave holding interests. The Fugitive Slave Act forced upon the unwilling North a flood of kidnappers snatching innocent men and women from their homes. The 3/5's Compromise in the Constitution guarantees the South a representation size in the House of Representatives beyond what we in the North have by giving the slave holders more voice at the expense of their slaves.

Compromising with the Devil must no longer continue nor can it be praised. We cannot hide the fact that by being united in one nation with slaveholders we are as guilty as those committing the horrible crimes that occur in the South. Compromise has yielded nothing but further demands by both sides, which creates an inevitable environment for the use of force to achieve the will of God.

Name: James Henry Hammond

Occupation: Congressman, Plantation Owner

Location: South Carolina

Testimony

"Cotton is King!" Yes, that was me who made this powerful pronouncement floor of Congress. I am committed to the maintenance of slavery as a means of upholding what we have economically and culturally achieved in the South, especially in my home state of South Carolina.

It is right for our Southern society, to maintain a working class that completes the hard labor necessary to support those in the upper class. In my lifetime, I have acquired over 300 slaves to work at my renowned plantation estate. They are mine to do with as I believe necessary-if they are not productive, I can punish them. Slaves are property which we as owners can do with as we please. Plus, slaves are much better off than the mill girls that the North abuses in its factories. Our slaves produce cotton, which runs those factories of the North and serves as our nation's largest export.

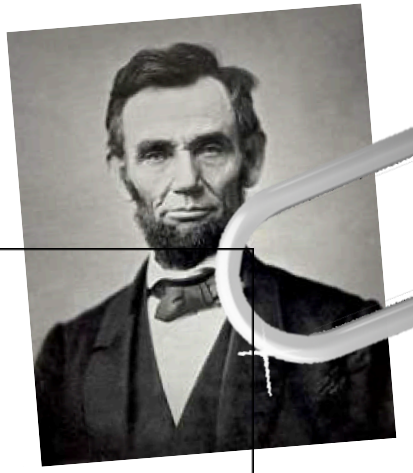
I believe that secession may be the downfall of our Southern society. We need to North to buy our cotton. Still, I resigned my position from the US Congress in an act of unity with my Southern brethren. I must be willing to defend slavery against any threat. It is the basis for our Southern society and has created a distinct lifestyle that many cherish. What would the South's identity be without slavery?

Why end what has been such a rich tradition in America since shortly after the founding of Jamestown? Do these abolitionists not recognize the contradictions in their ways? We provide our slaves with a guaranteed source of shelter, food as well as drink, and clothing. Do factories do this? No, they do not, yet they argue that it is the workman's choice to choose where he or she is employed, thus stating that a workman can either work at the factory and starve or they should not work at all leading to death by starvation. Have we seen the experiences of abolition in other societies? The English treat their citizens of color with shame and disgust causing much social tension. Must we look to Haiti? Should we risk freeing a class of people who may decide to enact violence against the upper class with such freedom? It was only a short time ago that Nat Turner took his revenge.

Name: Abraham Lincoln

Occupation: President

Location: Washington D.C.



Testimony

Some would fault me for pushing our nation into this current conflict. I disagree. I did not seek a violent war with our Southern brethren. They cast the first stone as they fired upon our nation's property at Fort Sumter. Only after this I created an army to end the rebellion. My use of force was not designed as a means of freeing slaves or a quest on their behalf, but a mission to reestablish our eternal bonds as the Union.

If one were to examine my positions for the Election of 1860, they would see nothing threatening slavery. I recognized the right of states to maintain their slaves. Yes, I stood for the restriction of expansion of slavery into the territories, but this was just to keep the sides balanced. Our party was not the antislavery party, but rather one of economic progress.

I admit I turned away the Peace Commissioners sent by the South for a negotiated settlement. However, I must ask: how much more "compromise" can we give to the South without ceding them all of the United States as slave land? I do not believe it is within my authority to end slavery throughout the country, but I will not deny my hope that it eventually dies out. It cannot die out however if those opposed to it continually give in in to maintain sectional peace.

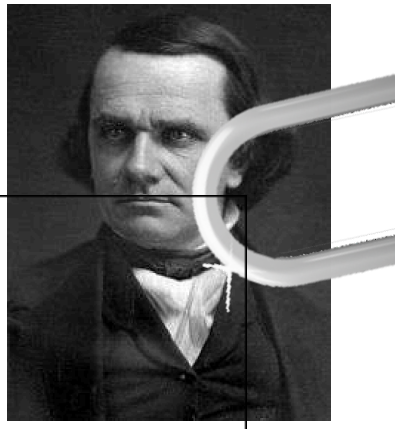
With the leadership of South Carolina, the Lower South has rejected one of the cornerstones of our democratic experiment: popular elections. They refused to accept the results of a presidential election, which is a regular occurrence every four years. Such behavior is irrational and indicative of a class of politicians who are intent on sabotaging our system simply to achieve their aristocratic interests. They wouldn't even put me on the ballot in those states. Now that is an act of a tyrannical government.

I conclude by reminding those who wish to listen that I am not an abolitionist seeking a war to emancipate all slaves while punishing the South. I have even proposed paying those who wish to free their slaves. I merely seek to end an unjustified and aggressive rebellion while working to rebuild our Union into one more perfect than before.

Name: Stephen Douglas

Occupation: Politician

Location: Illinois

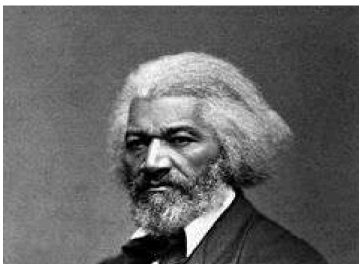


Testimony

If I won the Election of 1860 that our current predicament would not be occurring. While I overall opposed the expansion of slavery into our new territories, I do not necessarily agree with the abolitionists. I do not believe it our politicians, to decide for the inhabitants of the territories whether their land shoul slave. I regret the violence that broke out in Kansas following my creation of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Yet, I blame that on extremists on both sides who desired to corrupt what could have been a peaceful and democratic process. For me, popular sovereignty was a way to achieve peace as slavery slowly died out on its own. There was no need to force the nation into pointedly identifying an area as slave or free. Popular sovereignty would have enabled our fellow citizens to voice their preference.

Could "King Cotton" have continually expanded? I sincerely doubt so given the amount of quality soil necessary for its growth. To force the abolition of slavery or its exclusion would not serve our nation's best interests. It could potentially be economically devastating to suddenly disrupt the cotton market. Rather, by slowly strangling it through popular sovereignty, we afford the South the time to revolutionize their economy into one more industrialized, thus in line with the North. Our best approach would have been to patiently wait its extinction like our Founding Fathers had advocated.

Following the secession of South Carolina and the Lower South, begged for a compromise to be worked out in Congress. I called for supporting the ongoing peace negotiations that our fellow Northern and Southern moderates had sought. But, such calls and efforts soon became fruitless. However, I am proud to call myself a unionist. I rejected the hostile calls at our Democratic Convention of 1860 for a more extreme pro-slavery platform. While this led to the splintering of our party, I would say end all parties if these types of actions are what lead our nation to division.



Name: Frederick Douglass

Occupation: Abolitionist

Location: Massachusetts

Testimony

Please let me begin by stating what an honor it is for a black man to be before you. It was only a few years previously in which this government stated I had no rights and therefore no place in the judicial proceedings of the Supreme Court. I am gracious that you have afforded me this opportunity. I have gone from a life as a slave for twenty years (1818-1838) to now testifying as to what I believe has caused this righteous effort the Union now puts forth. I have seen the rape of women who had no means of self-defense, the breaking up of families at market, and have experienced firsthand the vicious lashes of an overbearing master. I am the reason for which the North should fight.

Would the South have seceded if they did not see Lincoln as a threat to their way of life? There is no other reason. The Southern states recognize that the only means of protecting slavery is through leaving the Union. I regret to also say that many in the North hesitate to end slavery too. Early efforts to emancipate slaves by generals were rejected and escaped slaves were returned to their masters. Even President Lincoln, celebrated by many abolitionists and freed blacks, has seemed to fight this war with one hand and not two, as he wished to defeat the rebellion but not end the true source of discord, the presence of slavery.

Some people have associated me with another abolitionist, John Brown. Yes, I knew him and I was aware of his Harper Ferry plans. But, I saw them as fanatical and unrealistic. Do not take this to mean that I am opposed to violence. I believe violence, or more importantly self-defense, is the symbol of a man. Thus, I now welcome the opportunity to end this unconstitutional uprising that claims its justification in the right to brutally possess other human beings. Allow secession to be answered with military might so that slavery could once and for all be obliterated from our national stage.

Name: _____ Period: _____

Causes of the Civil War Dossiers

You are member of a Congressional investigation committee in 1860. Abraham Lincoln has been elected president and the Southern states are furious. Some have already seceded from the Union and some have even mentioned violent rebellion if necessary. You have been called in to determine who was most responsible for the start of this awful conflict.

Name: John Brown North / South

Proof he was responsible:

1)

2)

Proof someone else was responsible:

1)

2)

3)

Name: James Henry Hammond North / South

Proof he was responsible:

1)

2)

Proof someone else was responsible:

1)

2)

3)

Name: Abraham Lincoln North / South

Proof he was responsible:

1)

2)

Proof someone else was responsible:

1)

Name: Frederick Douglass North / South

Proof he was responsible:

1)

2)

Proof someone else was responsible:

1)