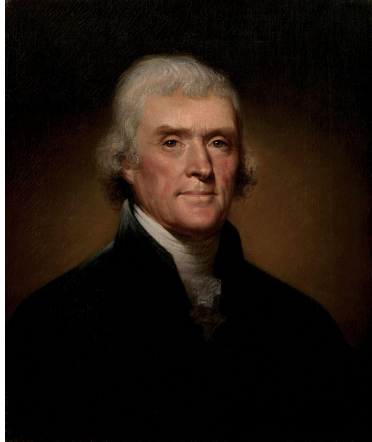


Part 1:

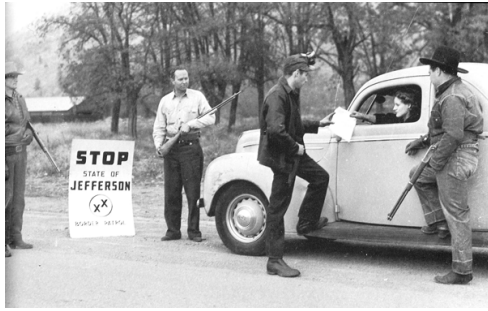


The State of Jefferson's beginnings take place in 1803, when the Lewis and Clark expedition took place in the Pacific Northwest. This exploration backed by Jefferson, became the foundations of the culture that would one day spread in the region, reaching northern California and Southern Oregon. This, coupled with the ideals of freedom and separation, gave Jefferson its name in 1941 later on.

Before California was admitted into the Union, talks were brought up in 1849 and 1850 to split the state into a (ironically) southern free state and northern slave state due to the separation of culture and lifestyles of the two groups. This proposal never did go through, but laid the beginnings for the distinct cultural divide between California and its northern inhabitants today.

(Fun fact, long before the Confederacy split from the Union, a small town in Nevada county, CA known as 'Rough and Ready' declared independence from the Union to avoid taxes before rejoining a year later).

Part 2:



The State of Jefferson movement officially began in October of 1941 (although at this point it wasn't named Jefferson yet). Gilbert Gable, the mayor of Port Orford Oregon (now referred to as the father of the State of Jefferson) urged the counties of Curry, Josephine, Klamath, and Jackson of Oregon to join counties of California (Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Modoc) to form a new state. The belief to create a new state was due to the fact that these rural areas of both states were extremely underrepresented in the State governments, and were constantly overlooked and neglected to gain the favor of more populated areas, such as cities.

The movement came to the public eye when on November 27 a group of young Jefferson supporters, carrying rifles stopped traffic on Route 99 south of Yreka (the county seat for Siskiyou county), handed out poster copies of their Proclamation of Independence from the states of Oregon and California. They swore to "secede every Thursday until further notice".

Part 3:



Quickly as the movement started, its end was much more near than anyone thought. The first blow to the movement, was that the man who proposed it all, Gilbert Gable, died on december 2, 1941. To establish itself not a fringe movement that ran on the coattails of one man however, the first (and last) elected governor of Jefferson from Crescent City in Del Norte county, John Leon Childs was inaugurated on December 4.

The movement would quickly find itself lose any steam it had, as the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, hampered any exposure they had to the American public, and even their own populace. Quickly, the 1941 movement would die as any plans to make a new state was halted to ensure the safety of the United States. After the war, it seemed like just a memory to the rest of the United States, but to these people it would be forever engrained in their culture for the years to come...

(Fun fact, the Jefferson area was one of the only places in the US that was actually attacked during the war. A Japanese pilot dropped bombs near the Oregon-side town of Brookings on September 9, 1942).