



MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, March 16th, 2026 | **RSVP:** kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp

Social Time: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM | **Address:** 1801 Newtown Pike



Colonel John Eaton and the Care of Civilian Population Displaced by War

John David Smith is the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has written or edited thirty-one books, including *An Old Creed for the New South: Proslavery Ideology and Historiography, 1865-1918*; *Black Judas: William Hannibal Thomas and The American Negro*; *Lincoln and the U.S. Colored Troops*; *Soldiering for Freedom: How the Union Army Recruited, Trained, and Deployed the U.S. Colored Troops*; and *We Ask Only for Even-Handed Justice: Black Voices from Reconstruction, 1865-1877*.

Praise for this book:

“This is clearly the best scholarly work on Kentucky in the Civil War era...this book is essential to grasping events pertaining to politics, economics, gender, slavery, military clashes, occupation and guerrilla warfare, racial conflict, and emancipation in the pivotal Bluegrass State.”

~ T. Michael Parrish, Baylor University

“...Each of the essays are well-researched and written with excellent footnote citations available for quick reference. *New Perspectives on Civil War-Era Kentucky* successfully adds to the ever-growing body of scholarship about the Bluegrass State’s Civil War experience.”

~ Emerging Civil War



PRESIDENT’S REPORT | BILL FARMER, JR.

As winter played such a role in the war, so it has with us thus far in 2026! There is hope as we have our first meeting of the Roundtable coming up shortly as this letter heralds...Spring will not be far behind our March meeting!

Please take note and make plans to join us for the March meeting and bring a guest. All are welcome but the younger the better. We need more and fresh “troops”!

Looking ahead to our April gathering, we welcome back Kent Masterson Brown! Our member and former leader but also one of the foremost lecturers in the Civil War arena. As you follow the website you will see his updated appearance there. Kent’s service for us has included stints as our first Vice President and then President over the past decade. Presentations like this are his strong suit and we

will be wiser because of his depth of knowledge. Kent will be speaking on “Kentucky in the American Revolution” as we commemorate our Nation’s 250th Anniversary this year. Personally, I am going to get a proper libation and take notes!

We have long gone from the Phoenix Hotel, The Springs Inn and The Campbell House but have found a fine campground at the Embassy Suites off Newtown Pike. We will get to experience their recent renovations. It’s a fine venue and tasty too. Please make plans to join us and find the comfort that our club provides. Carry On!

Bill Farmer, Jr.

PRESIDENT



TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY

We welcome 2026 with excitement for our gatherings and meetings this year. We continue to offer the Basic, Supporting, and Sustaining membership fee structure. These levels show appreciation and commitment to this organization. There are also other options for contributions to the Roundtable available. Thanks to everyone for keeping or moving up the tiered memberships.

We currently have experienced a significant reduction in the Sustaining memberships tier and as of this month we are looking at a deficit of about \$6,000 for the year. There

are still opportunities to sponsor our meetings and other gifts to the Roundtable have had a significant impact over the last two years. To date we show a total of 66 Basic, 29 Supporting and 20 Sustaining membership gifts.

Please feel free to inquire with any of your board members as to any questions on budgeted items. We are all here to support your efforts for the Roundtable. Thank you for making this a premier organization!

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello members! I hope your 2026 has started off in the right direction and everyone enjoyed a joyful holiday season.

Here's the news you need to know for the upcoming March 16, 2026, meeting:

RSVP to me via text, email, phone call, or website before Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 4 PM. You will find my contact information in this Newsletter.

When you RSVP via email or text, let me know how you want to pay for your meal: online, with a credit card on file, or check. I'm not sure what the menu will be for the meeting, but I'll let you all know ASAP. Remember a vegetarian option is available as well. Just let me know your preference when you RSVP.

Another reminder when you RSVP, you need to pay for your meal at that time. Please be considerate and follow this procedure so that I don't have to spend time reaching out to you to remind you to pay days before the event.

For those members who might have trouble with stairs, please note that you can park around the back of the building and enter through that entrance to avoid any stairs. It's actually a shorter distance to the check in table coming that way.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



Sumter to Shiloh: Kentucky & Kentuckians During the First Year of War

PART ONE

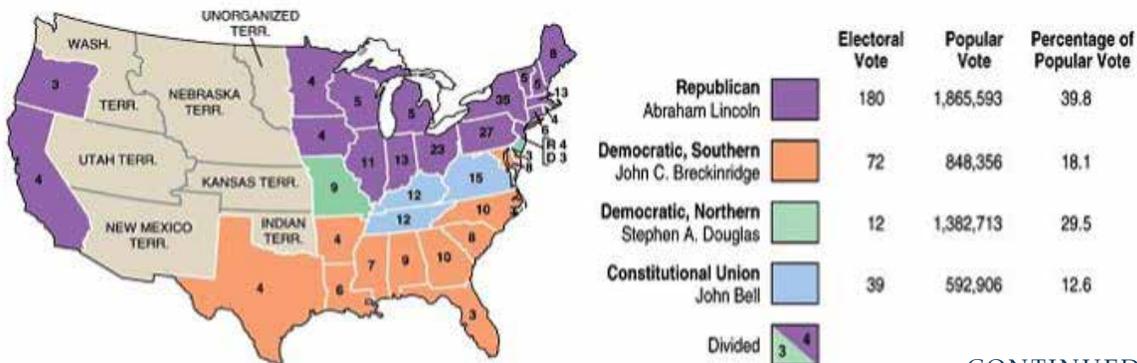
During the first year of the Civil War, Kentuckians and Kentucky natives became key leaders and enlisted to fight in large numbers for both sides. This is not surprising, given Kentucky's origin as a frontier location and as the home of many Revolutionary War veterans who settled here.

Kentucky Historical Society records indicate that 60% of all American casualties during the War of 1812 were Kentuckians, and that over 30 of Kentucky's 120 counties are named for men who either died or were wounded during the War of 1812 (Source: explorekyhistory.ky.gov/tours/show/4 -- this features information on over 50 Kentucky people and places associated with the War of 1812 found on KHS Historical Markers across Kentucky.) Let's examine how these Kentuckians were immortalized and became the subject of one of the most famous images taken during the Civil War.



National Crisis and the Election of 1860

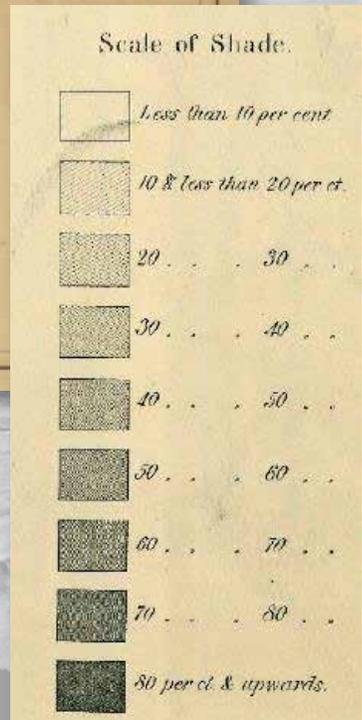
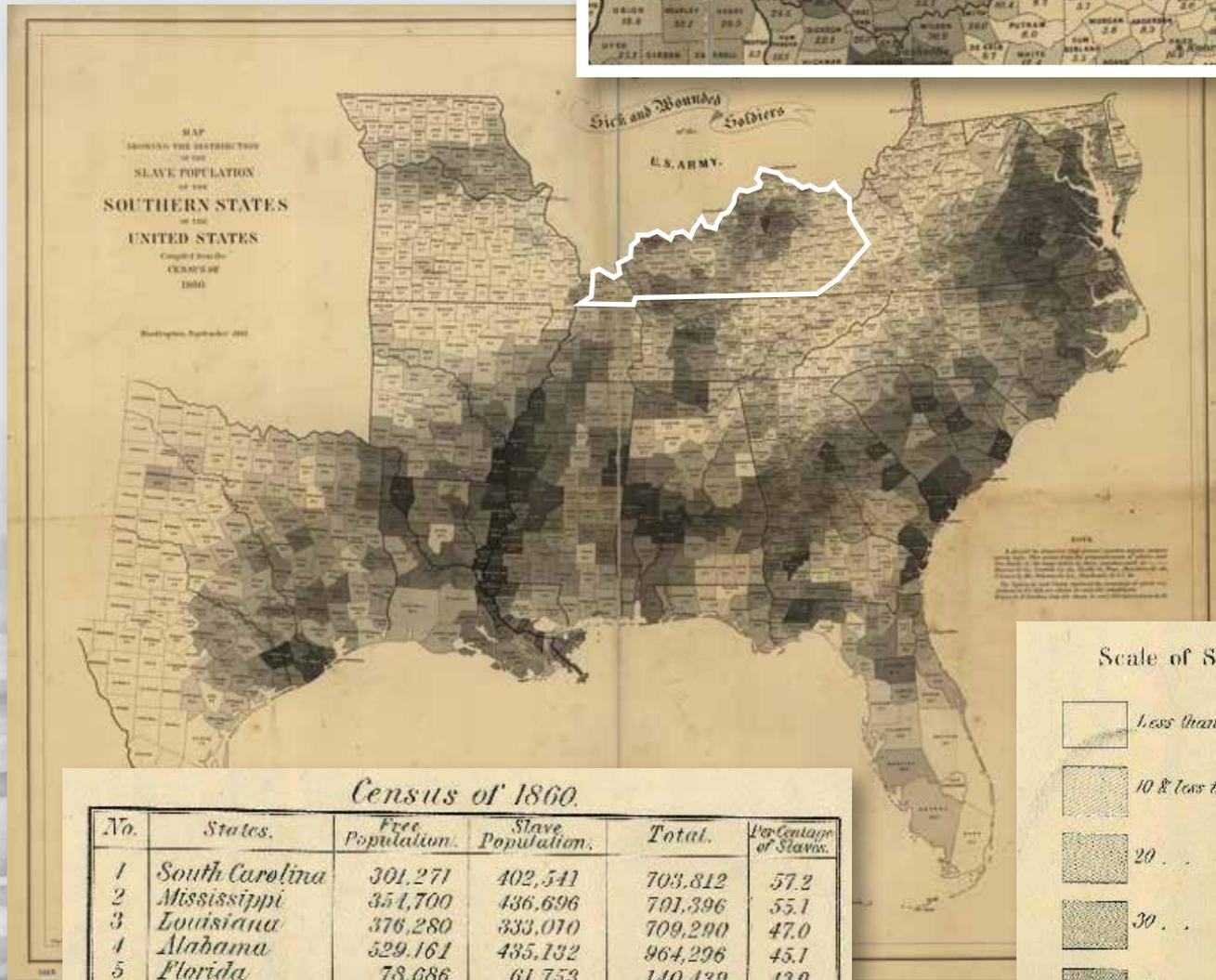
Kentucky native Abraham Lincoln's victory over Kentuckian John Breckinridge and the two other candidates in the November 1860 Presidential Election set in motion the Secession Crisis of Southern slaveholding states. In December 1860, South Carolina became the first of 7 states who voted to leave the Union and form the Southern Confederacy (4 other states voted for secession after the fighting began at Fort Sumter). Delegates met in Montgomery, Alabama in February 1861 and chose Kentucky native Jefferson Davis as their President.



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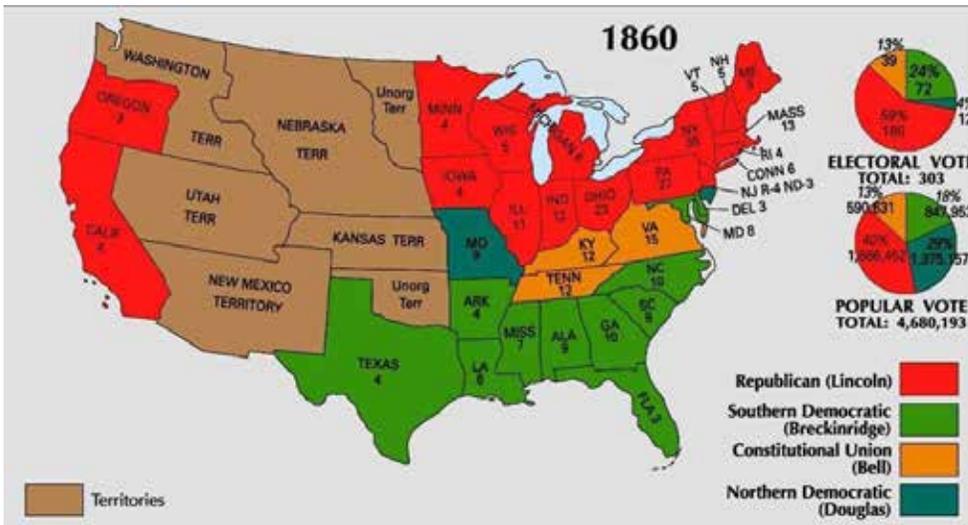
The Distribution of the Slave Population of the Southern States

Compiled from the Census of 1860



Census of 1860.

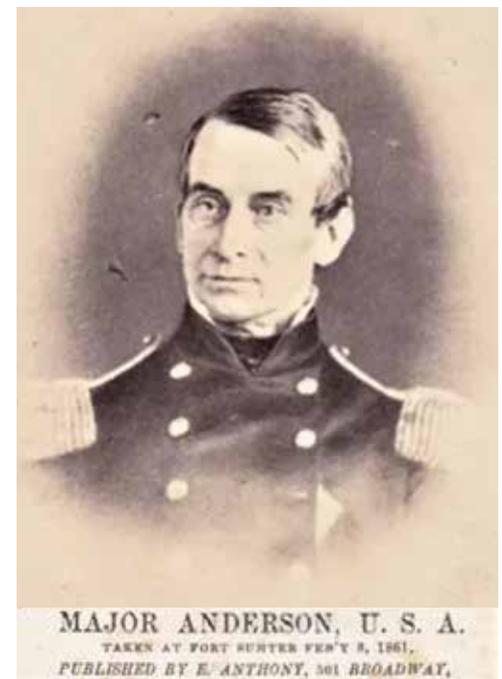
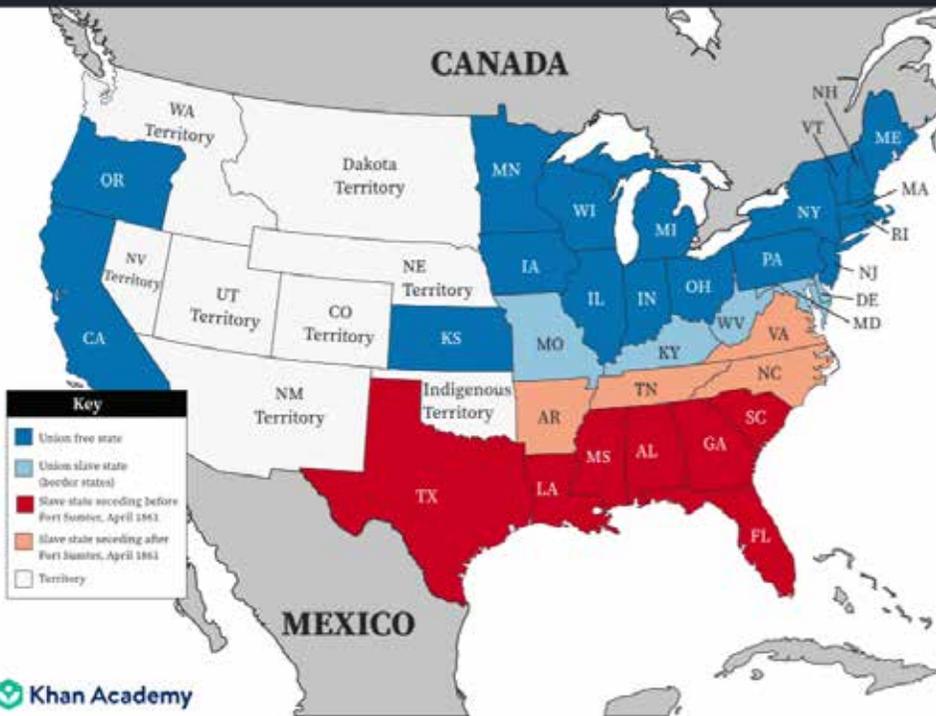
No.	States.	Free Population.	Slave Population.	Total.	Per Centage of Slaves.
1	South Carolina	301,271	402,541	703,812	57.2
2	Mississippi	351,700	436,696	701,396	55.1
3	Louisiana	376,280	333,070	709,290	47.0
4	Alabama	529,161	435,132	964,296	45.1
5	Florida	78,686	61,753	140,439	13.9
6	Georgia	595,007	462,232	1,057,229	43.7
7	North Carolina	661,586	331,081	992,667	33.4
8	Virginia	1,105,192	490,887	1,596,079	30.7
9	Texas	421,750	180,682	602,432	30.0
10	Arkansas	324,323	111,104	435,427	25.5
11	Tennessee	834,063	275,784	1,109,847	24.8
12	Kentucky	930,223	225,490	1,155,713	19.5
13	Maryland	599,846	87,188	687,034	12.7
14	Missouri	1,067,352	114,965	1,182,317	9.7
15	Delaware	110,420	1,798	112,218	1.6
		8,289,953	3,950,343	12,240,296	32.2



States that seceded

STATE	SECESSION DATE
South Carolina	Dec. 20, 1860
Mississippi	Jan. 9, 1861
Florida	Jan. 10, 1861
Alabama	Jan. 11, 1861
Georgia	Jan. 19, 1861
Louisiana	Jan. 26, 1861
Texas	Feb. 1, 1861
Virginia	April 17, 1861
Arkansas	May 6, 1861
North Carolina	May 20, 1861
Tennessee	June 8, 1861

Secession of the Confederacy



Fort Sumter & Kentucky’s Early Connections to Conflict

Kentucky native Robert Anderson commanded the Federal garrisons at Fort Moultrie and Sumter in Charleston when South Carolina voted for secession, and the confrontation over control of Sumter became a focus of national attention in January 1861, when Confederate forces prevented resupply of the base by firing on the ship *Star of the West* on January 9. The Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12 started 4 years of carnage and devastation that would change America forever.

Kentucky’s central geographical location and status as one the border slaveholding states that did not formally join the Confederacy meant that it would play an important role in the conflict.

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Full treatment of Kentucky’s diverse factions and the range of views on Secession and Slavery and Union in the Commonwealth in 1860 and 1861 is beyond the scope of this article, but Kentucky’s legislature voted to remain neutral in the conflict in May 1861.

“On May 16, 1861, noting “the deplorable condition of the country” following the outbreak of the Civil War, “for which the State of Kentucky is in no way responsible,” the House approved a resolution that “this State and the citizens thereof should take no part in the civil war now being waged except as mediators and friends to the belligerent parties.” The Senate on May 20 also passed resolutions accepting neutrality. However, in September 1861, following the Confederate invasion of western Kentucky, both the House and the Senate abandoned the policy of neutrality. So Kentucky, characterized by Abraham Lincoln as indispensable to the Union cause, remained in the Union during the war.”

From: apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeMoments/moments06RS/23_web_leg_moments.htm

War Reaches Kentucky

The Confederate occupation of Columbus, Kentucky in September and the immediate response by Federal forces to move into Kentucky and occupy Paducah and Smithland meant that the conflict would enter the Commonwealth.

“With the appointment of **Kentucky native General Albert Sidney Johnston** as commander of all of what was known as Department Number 2 – that included Kentucky – a Confederate northern defense line was established in the trans-Allegheny west that extended from Columbus to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and all the way to Cumberland Gap. Because of Kentucky’s initial claims of neutrality, Tennessee had constructed Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River in the summer of 1861 to defend its northern border... The Confederate defense line was destined to collapse; it was too long – more than four hundred miles – and it was broken by two great, navigable rivers that ran south to north through western Kentucky.”

(From American Battlefield Trust article “The Long Road Back To Kentucky” here: www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/long-road-back-kentucky)

Cartoon is from American Battlefield Trust Article “A House Divided: Civil War Kentucky” (www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/house-divided-civil-war-kentucky), and the following is excerpted from that article:

Population by Color and Status: U.S. Slave States, 1860

	White		Slave		Free Black	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Confederate States						
Alabama	526,271	55	435,080	45	2,690	<1
Arkansas	324,143	74	111,115	26	144	<1
Florida	77,747	55	61,745	44	932	1
Georgia	591,550	56	462,198	44	3,500	<1
Louisiana	357,456	50	331,726	47	18,647	3
Mississippi	353,899	45	436,631	55	773	<1
North Carolina	629,942	63	331,059	33	30,463	3
South Carolina	291,300	41	402,407	57	9,914	1
Tennessee	826,722	74	275,719	25	7,300	1
Texas	420,891	70	182,566	30	355	<1
Virginia	1,047,299	66	490,865	31	58,042	4
Subtotal	5,447,220	60	3,521,110	39	132,760	1
Union Slave States						
Delaware	90,589	81	1,798	2	19,829	18
District of Columbia	60,763	81	3,185	4	11,131	15
Kentucky	919,484	80	225,483	20	10,684	1
Maryland	515,918	75	87,189	13	83,942	12
Missouri	1,063,489	90	114,931	10	3,524	<1
Subtotal	2,650,243	83	432,586	13	129,158	4
All Slave States	8,097,463	66	3,953,696	32	261,918	2



Kentucky Cat Fight. “Governor Magoffin’s (KY governor) neutrality means holding the cock of the walk (Uncle Sam) while the Confederate Cat (Jeff Davis) kills off his Chickens

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A House Divided: Dual Governments & Divided Families

“On November 18, 1861, 200 delegates passed an Ordinance of Secession and established Confederate Kentucky; the following December it was admitted to the Confederacy as a 13th state. The state capital was at Bowling Green, and George W. Johnson — who only supported Kentucky’s secession because he hoped the new balance of power would end the war — became governor. Governor Magoffin eventually resigned and cast his lot with Confederate Kentucky, as did John C. Breckinridge.

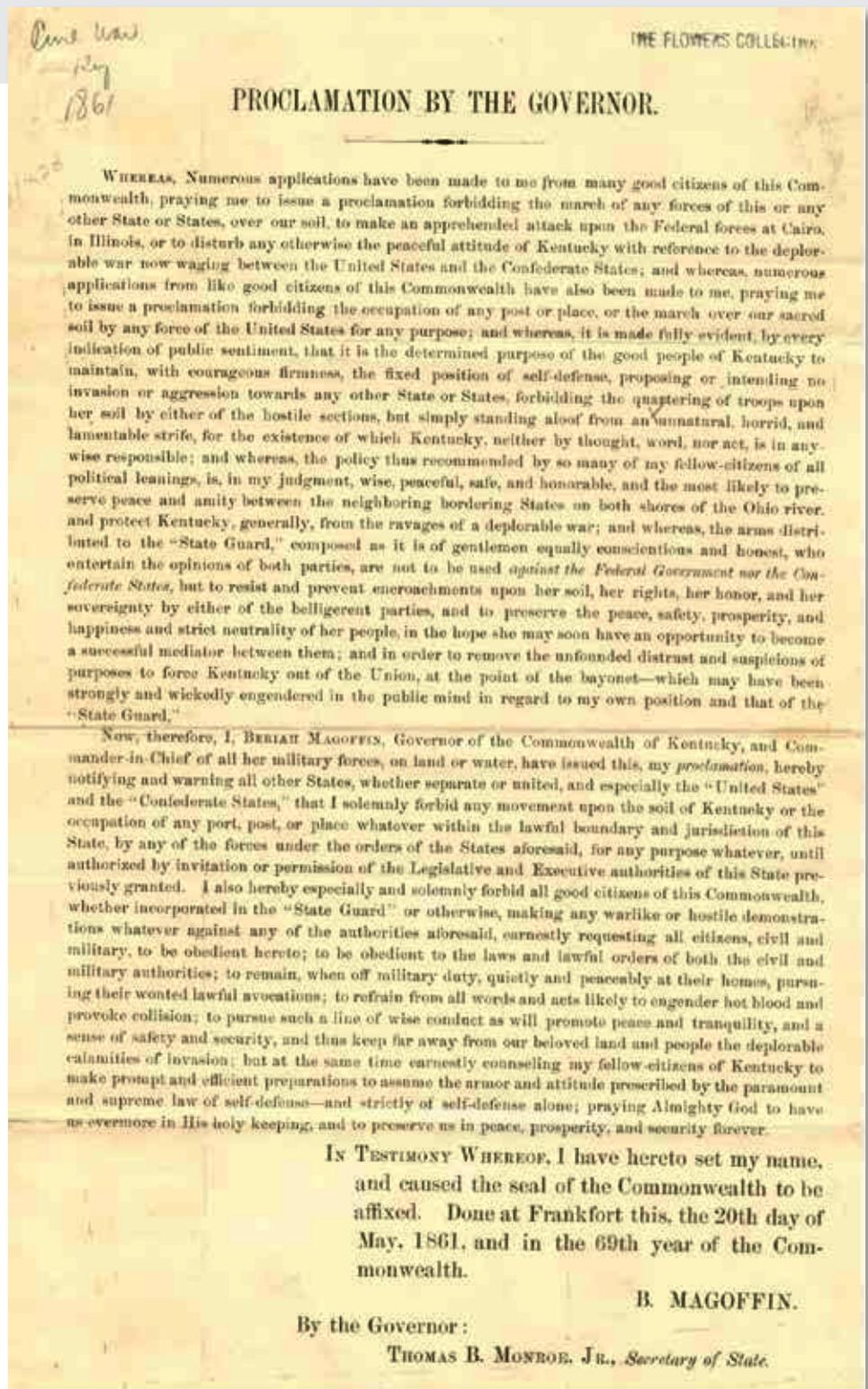
Kentucky’s dual governments and military forces caused many divisions between Kentucky families. Kentucky-born statesman John J. Crittenden’s son George was a general in the Confederate Army; his son Thomas was a general for the Union. Robert Breckinridge, John C. Breckinridge’s uncle, had two sons fighting for the North and two for the South. Three grandsons of the late Kentucky statesman Henry Clay fought in Union blue while four fought in Confederate gray.

In total, about 100,000 Kentuckians served in the Union Army. After April 1864, when the Union Army began recruiting African American soldiers in Kentucky, almost 24,000 joined to fight for their freedom. For the Confederacy, between 25,000 and 40,000 Kentuckians answered the call of duty.”

From Wikipedia: “Kentuckians, to arms!!!” Confederate recruitment broadside published Louisville, 1861 (Duke University Libraries)

The Kentucky National Guard page has this summary of Kentucky’s involvement in the war:

“Over 100,000 Kentuckians served in the war, 64,000 Union, 25,000 Confederate. Of these, 10,774 Union and 19,226 Confederate soldiers were casualties. Another 13,000 served as members of the Unionist Kentucky State Guard within the Commonwealth, guarding bridges and other installations.



Copy of the declaration – from Duke University library: <https://repository.duke.edu/dc/broadsides/bdsky20544>

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Noted Kentuckians in the war included Confederate Generals Albert Sidney Johnston, John Cabell Breckinridge, Simon Bolivar Buckner, John Hunt Morgan and Humphrey Marshall.

The Crittenden family furnished two general officers; one brother, George B., went to the Confederacy, and Thomas, to the Union. Kentucky provided nine other Union generals including William (Bull) Nelson and Jeremiah Tilford Boyle, and 23 other Confederate general officers...”

kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Pages/The-War-Between-The-States.aspx

Suggestions for further reading:

American Battlefield Trust –

- 1) Civil War timeline – great reference: www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/day-civil-war
- 2) Secession: www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/declaration-causes-seceding-states

American Historical Association timeline of events leading to secession:

www.historians.org/teaching-learning/aha-historical-collections/16-months-to-sumter/chronology-of-major-events-leading-to-secession-crisis/

Kentucky National Guard – 2 great sources about the Civil War in Kentucky:

- 1) Website: kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Pages/The-War-Between-The-States.aspx
- 2) 73-page Document compiled by Colonel (Ret.) Armando “Al” Alfaro: kynghistory.ky.gov/Our-History/History-of-the-Guard/Documents/ThePaperTrailoftheCivil-WarinKY18611865%202.pdf

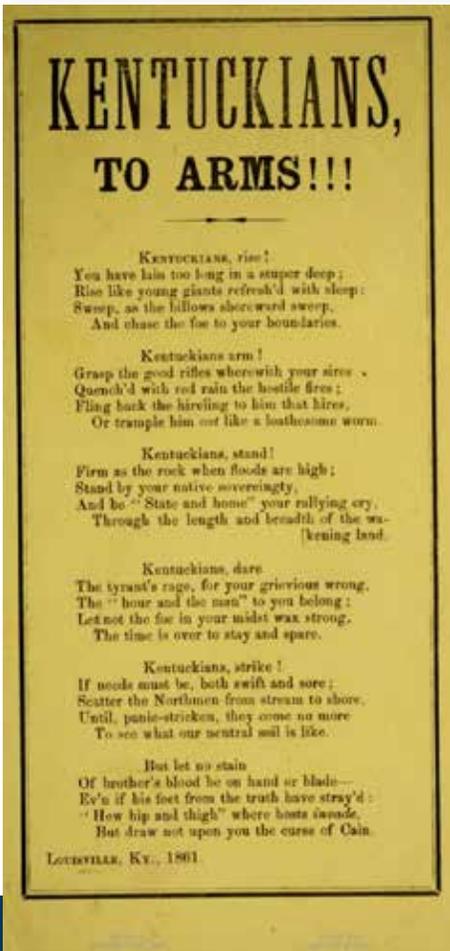
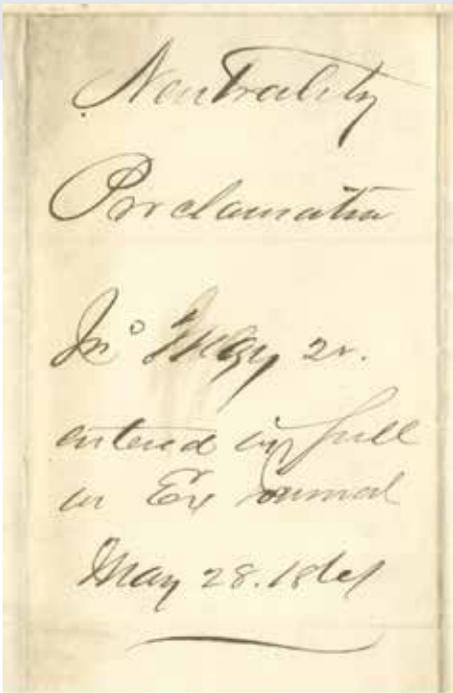
Marshall, Anne E. —

- 1) Cassius Marcellus Clay: The Life of an Antislavery Slaveholder and the Paradox of American Reform and
- 2) Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State

NPS article on Fort Sumter: <https://nps.history.com/publications/fosu/index.htm>

Wikipedia:

- 1) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kentucky_in_the_American_Civil_War
- 2) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Kentucky%27s_American_Civil_War_generals



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