

# The South and the Slavery Controversy

“If you put a chain around the neck of a slave, the other end fastens itself around your own.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1841

# “Cotton IS King!”

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- Cotton gin: easy to process cotton (remove seeds); led to increase demand which led to increase in labor (in this case slavery)
- Northern seaboard cities also benefited from the shipments of cotton and manufactured cotton products that filled their ports
- ½ the value of all American exports after 1840
- South produced more than half the world's supply of cotton ---→ demand from other countries simply reinforced the South to continue their ways

# The Planter Aristocracy



*Vivian Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara*

- South was seen as an “oligarchy” (gov’t of the few)
- In this case the planter aristocracy
- Wide gap between rich and poor in the South
- Mistresses of plantations usually had large household staff of female slaves
- Small farmers usually ended up forced to sell land to large plantation owners



# Slaves of the Slave System

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- Slaves were huge capital to plantation owners, around \$1200 each.
  - Slave system kept European (Germans, Irish) immigrants from coming to the South.
    - Slaves were cheaper
    - Land was costly, Irish could not afford
    - European ignorance in growing slavery
- \*\*\*\*\*Slave trade banned, but natural growth (reproduction) increases slave populations

# The White Majority

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- Over 2/3 of white farmers owned ten slaves or less
- Small white farmers worked side by side with their slaves
- Whites living in mountain regions (North GA, TN, NW South Carolina) raised corn and hogs, not cotton
- Most of these poor non-slaveholding whites were shunned, called “crackers”, “hillbillies”
- Still supported slavery cause; hopes of one day owning slaves and moving up in society (social mobility)
- “Rich man’s war, but a poor man’s fight.”

# Free Blacks

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- About 250,000 free blacks lived in North
- Some states denied blacks the right to vote and barred them from public schools
- “Much of the agitation in the North against the spread of slavery...grew out of race prejudice, not humanitarianism.”
- Many historians agree that while the South was racist towards Blacks as a group, they were less so towards individuals. The opposite was true for the North.

# Nat Turner Rebellion

- Nat Turner – Slave and preacher, believed God sent him to avenge the horrors of slavery
- Escapes and gains support amongst other slaves
- Turner's group ends up slaughtering over 60 white men, women and children
- Oct 1831 – Turner captured, hung and skinned
- Brought to light the horrors of slavery and inspired many to question the institution







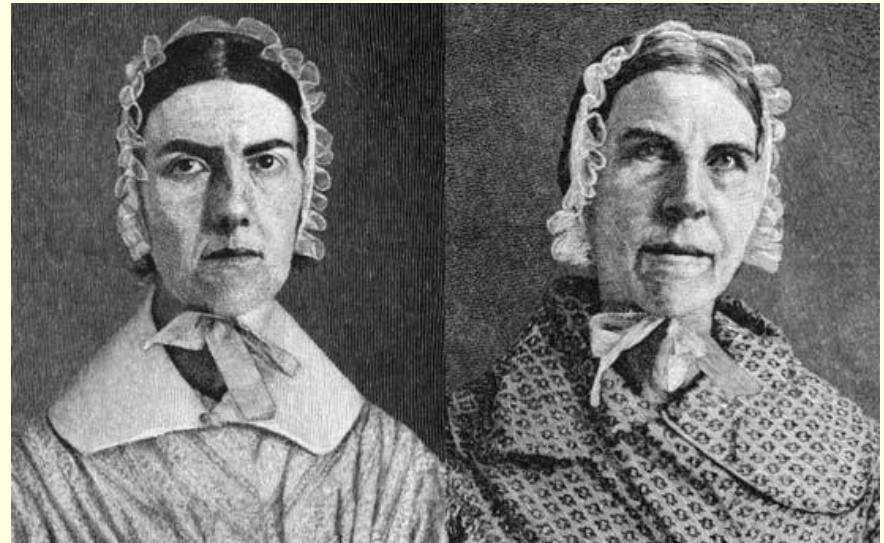
# William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879)



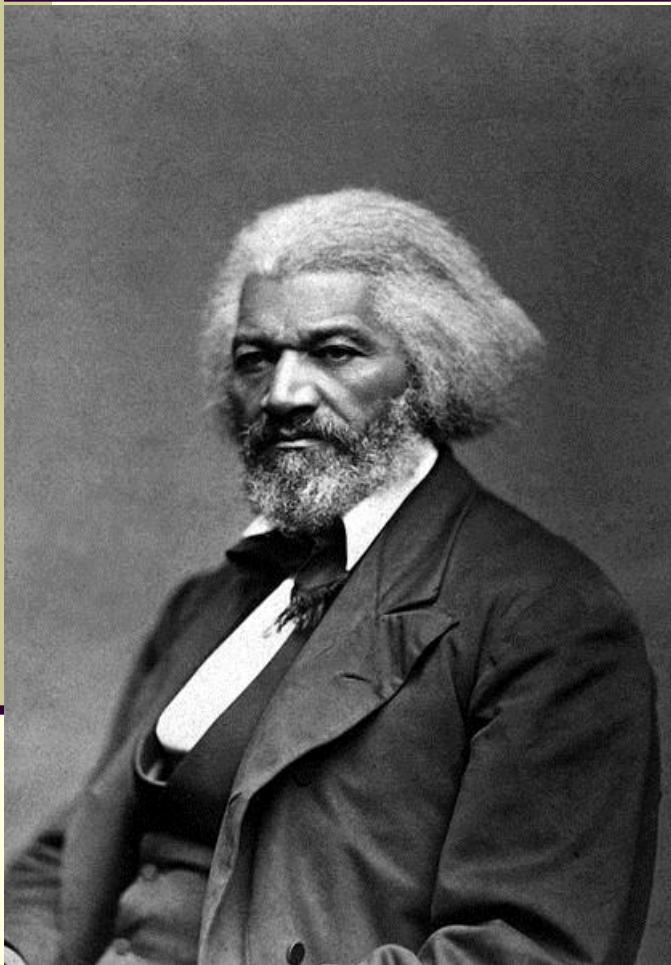
- Massachusetts born abolitionist
- Founded the American Anti-Slavery Society
- Published weekly anti-slavery newspaper called *The Liberator*

# Sarah and Angelina Grimke

- Sisters who grew up on a plantation in South Carolina
- Traveled around the North preaching of the horrors of slavery
- Met with resistance and ridiculed because of their gender.

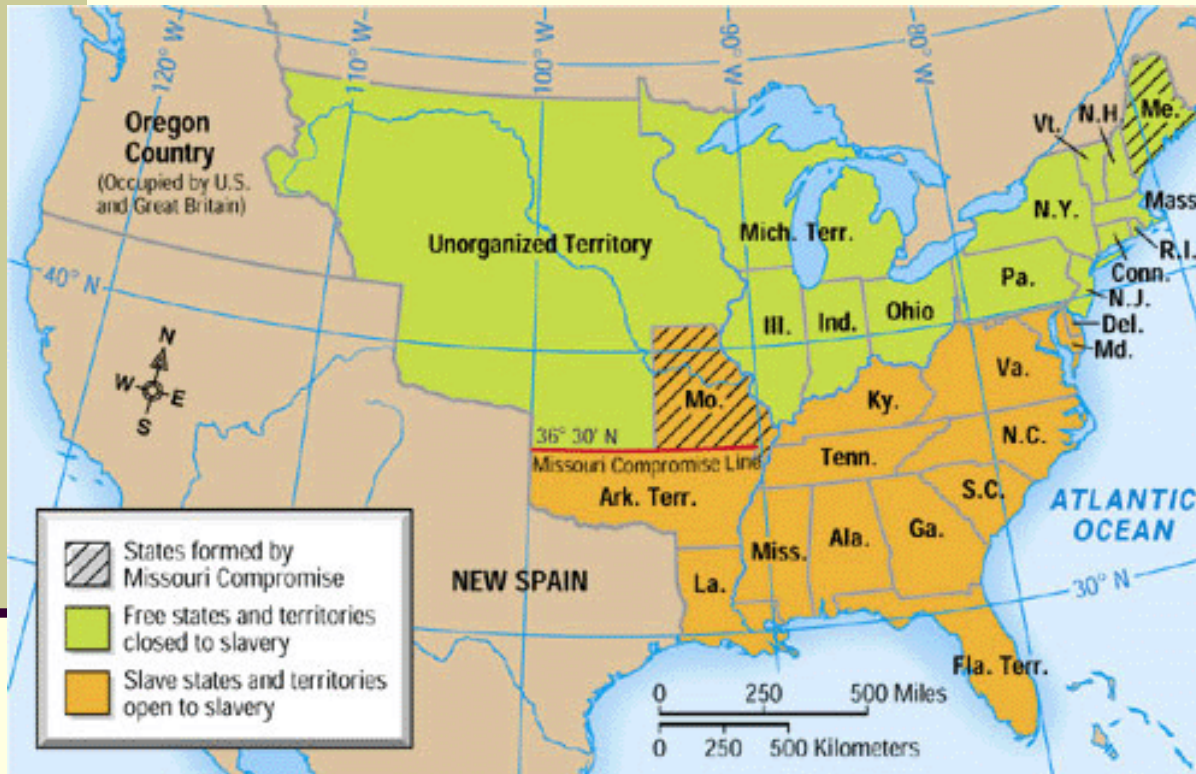


# Frederick Douglass (c.1818-1895)



- Son of slave and white master
- Taught himself to read and write
- Escaped bonds of slavery, fled North
- Joined forces with William Lloyd Garrison to fight slavery

# Missouri Compromise of 1820



- MO as a slave state
- Maine as free state
- Slavery outlawed in LA Purchase north of 36, 30 line

# Compromise of 1850



- CA admitted as free state
- Utah/New Mexico territory open to slavery via popular vote
- Slave trade banned in D.C.
- Fugitive Slave Law enacted

# Henry Clay and the Compromise of 1850



- In his final years of life, Henry Clay fought sternly the institution of slavery
- He proposed the Compromise of 1850 that limited slavery from expanding to California

Henry Clay arguing in the Senate against expansion of slavery and Vice President Fillmore, John C. Calhoun, Stephen A. Douglas and Daniel Webster look on.

Videos (PLEASE VIEW ALL)

Copy URL if hyperlink does not work.

Use Mozilla browser.

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- <http://www.history.com/videos/nat-turners-rebellion#nat-turners-rebellion>
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