A Living History of Our World

AMERICA'S STORY

2

From the Civil War to the Industrial Revolution



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CURRICULUM

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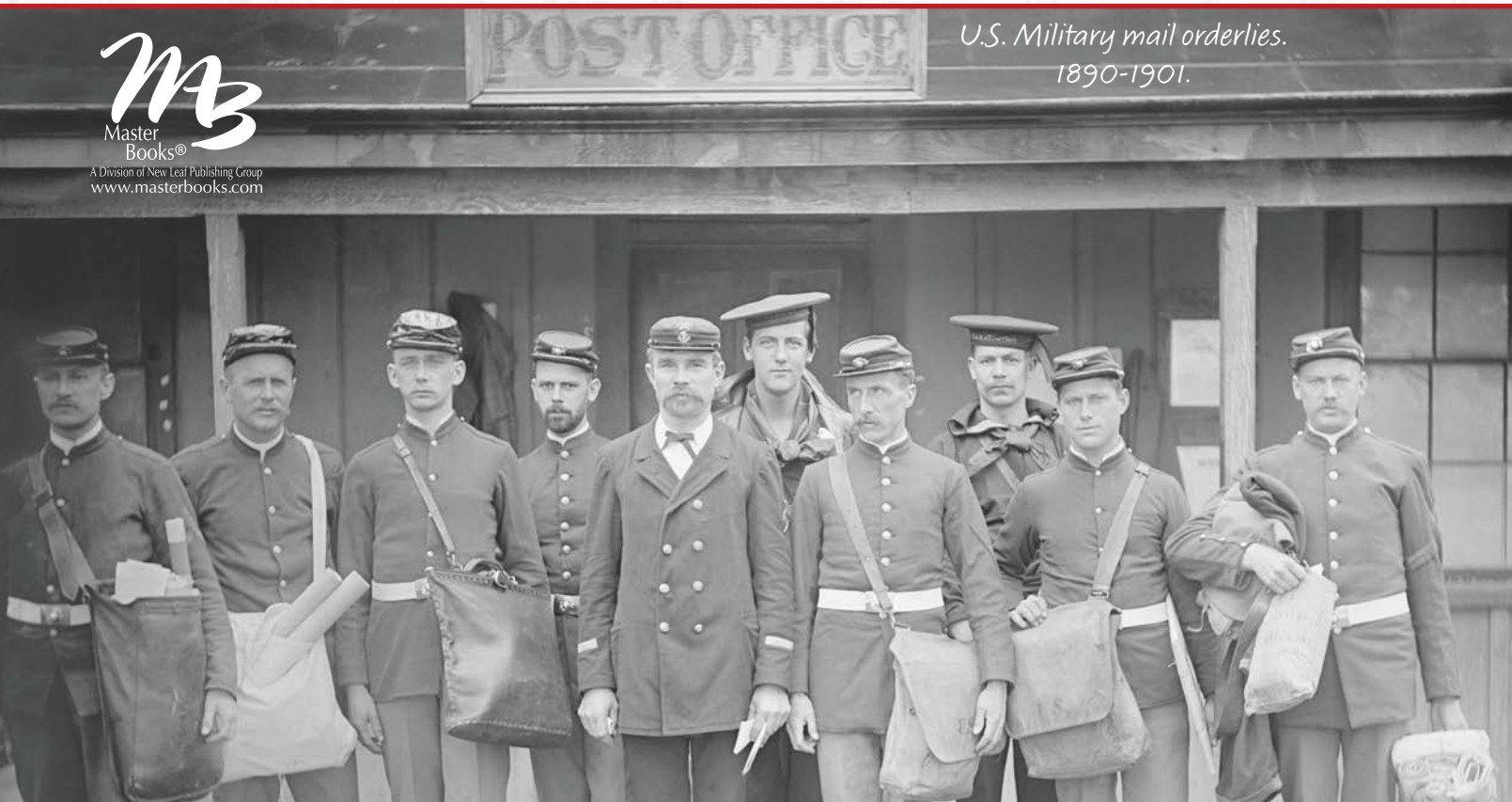
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Dedicated to my favorite students,
who were also my teachers. I love you!
Soli Deo Gloria



U.S. Military mail orderlies.
1890-1901.

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Welcome to *A Living History of Our World, America's Story*. I am so pleased that you have chosen this book to teach your children the story of our great country. This book is a unique combination of storybook and history curriculum. It is written in the same style that I have used with my children for the last 19 years, and many of the stories are the same ones that I have told my own children as we have woven our tapestry of historical knowledge throughout the years. My goal in writing this curriculum is to make an easy-to-use, comprehensive history resource for you to use with all your elementary-age children at one time, with little to no preparation and no necessary supplements.

First, I would like to share with you what I have learned through teaching my children history this way. First and foremost, I have learned that history truly does need to be taught as HIStory; however, you do not need to teach your children from a "religiously sterilized" point of view. Not every person in American history was a Christian, but that does not mean that He did not use them for His plan and glory. I have also learned that children need to know how they fit into this picture and how history pertains to them.

In our family, we firmly believe in providing a living education. You might ask, "What does a living education mean?" For us, it is about making relationships with what we learn. It means that we learn about both heroes and villains. We learn about famous men and women and not-so-famous men and women. We make friends in history instead of just memorizing dates and names. We reach out and touch nature and learn to be observant of the small things in life. We see God's love for us in the flaming-red sunset, as well as in the busy little ants laboriously gathering their food. We work diligently to hide God's Word in our hearts.

Our goal is a living relationship with our Heavenly Father and wise hearts that love His world. We like the quote, "Education is the lighting of a fire, not the filling of a bucket." It is to that end that I wrote this book.

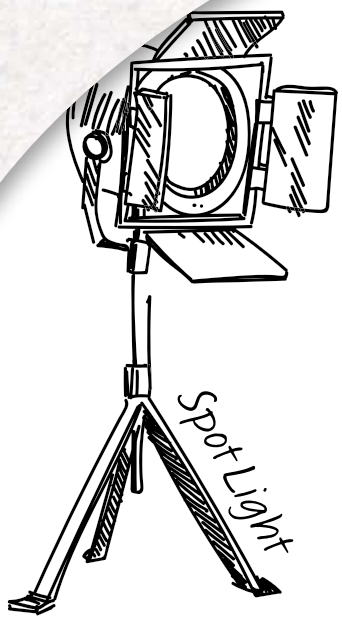
In our homeschool, I have followed the methods of Charlotte Mason with wonderful results. Therefore, my desire was to produce a resource that was a living book that "purled along pleasantly," engaging the children's minds, feeding their spirits, and fanning the flame, which is their God-given love of learning. I wanted the pages to be filled with pleasant images that would help them see their new "friends" in action.

Blessings,

Angela O'Dell

CHAPTER 1

STORM CLOUDS



Starting Point: Slavery had been a divisive issue in the United States for many years. Though many were appalled by it, others supported it. As American boundaries expanded, people argued bitterly over whether or not slavery should be allowed to expand, too. These tensions weighed heavily on the presidential election of 1860.

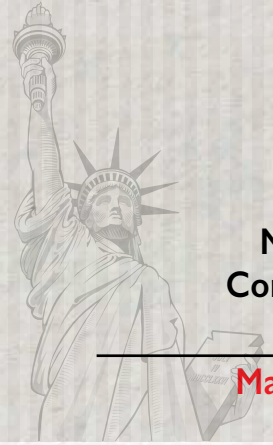


Massachusetts farmhouse

Balloon-Framed Houses: For generations, Americans built timber-framed homes. They were sturdy but hard to build. In the 1800s, people started building balloon-framed houses—they were lighter but also cheaper and easier to make. Soon, they became the most popular way to build a house. Balloon-framed houses are just one of many ways that innovations affected Americans' everyday lives in the 19th century. As technology developed new methods, many tasks became much easier.



1. **How had slaves helped build our country?**
2. **What were territories and how did they turn into states?**



Missouri Compromise — March 1820

Kansas-Nebraska Act — May 1854

First Lincoln-Douglas debate — August 1858

Welcome to the next chapter of our country's history. We are getting ready to embark on an exciting adventure through what is both one of the best and worst times in our country's history! If you were with me through the first part of our story in *America's Story, Volume 1,* you will remember that when we said goodbye, we wondered what was going to come from the rising tension between the North and the South. We learned that slavery had spread like a contagious disease, threatening our very existence as a free nation.

We met many brave and honorable men and women who helped build our country on true and noble principles. We were troubled, though, about the persistent and spreading problem of slavery. Maybe you even wondered how this could have ever happened here in America, the land of the free and the home of the brave!

As we continue our story, we are going to see the ominous storm clouds of another war looming on the horizon. This war was like no other war in the history of our country; this was a civil war. This war was fought within our country, brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor. How did our young nation make it through this horrendous battle?

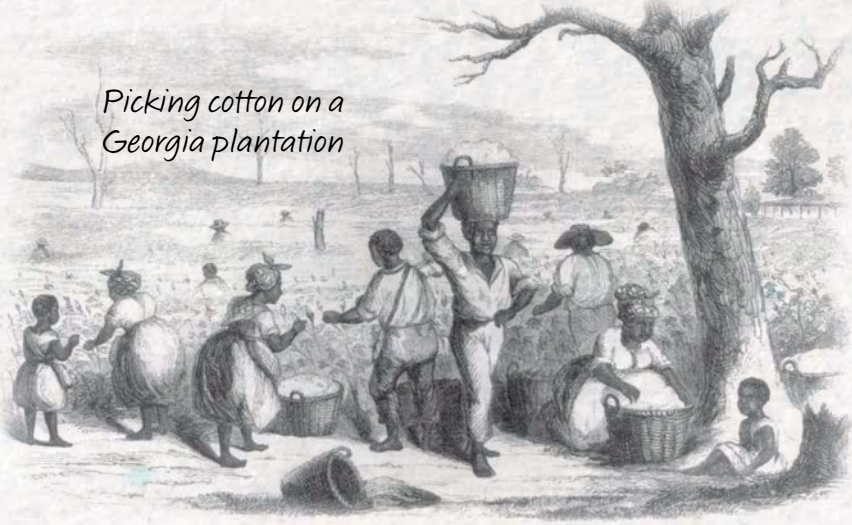
By this time in our history, America had spread its borders from coast to coast, much as it is now. Not all of that land was made up of states like it is now, though. There was a large section of land that was made up of territories, which were large tracts of land that had not been given statehood, but still belonged to the United States of America. Let's look at the map on pages 10–11. This is what our country looked like at this time in history. Do you see the large area marked as "territories"? It covers almost as much land as the states covered!



TERRITORY: An area governed by a country but not yet officially a state

As territories became populated enough to be granted statehood, there were laws passed in some of them to keep them slave-free. Unfortunately, there was nothing those laws could do to keep southern slave owners from moving into those new states. Both the North and South wanted the new territories to follow their lead in either being slave states or free states. As you can see, everything was a big mess!

There were many people in the South who felt that they had a right to own slaves. There were also people who felt that slavery was wrong, and that there was no place for it in this country, which was founded on principles of freedom. There were people in the North who didn't care if there were slaves; however, there were also people who felt strongly that slavery was wrong! There was much division in the country. In the same family,



Picking cotton on a Georgia plantation

there were those who supported slavery and those who supported freedom.

Like it or not, the North depended on the South and their slave labor, and the whole country depended on the crops of cotton and tobacco that were grown and harvested in the South by slaves. These crops were shipped up north and processed in the northern factories. Cotton was made into cloth that was sold all over the country, and both cotton and tobacco were sold in Europe. A large part of American industry had been built and was now being operated by slaves. It angered many people to know that our country depended so heavily upon slave labor. There was no getting around it; the slavery issue was going to have to be faced and dealt with, once and for all.

This was the atmosphere of the country in the year 1860. It was a presidential election year, and the South had threatened that they would not remain part of the country if a president who didn't support their views on slavery was elected. What kind of platform would each candidate take?

In every presidential election, the Democratic party and the Republican party both choose the candidate that they believe will best serve our country. Those candidates then spend several months trying to persuade the American people to vote for them. In the election year 1860, what issue do you think was the hot topic of debate? Slavery!

After some upheaval, candidates were chosen and the debates began. The Democratic party split between North and South, each choosing its own candidate. The northern Democrats chose Stephen Douglas. Mr. Douglas was anti-slavery but supported letting each territory decide whether or not they wanted slavery. The South chose John Breckinridge, who was pro-slavery.

The Republican party chose a lawyer-turned-representative from ***Illinois*** named Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln was strongly against slavery, but he also addressed other issues of concern to the American people. He wanted to make travel easier for homesteaders going west and better homesteading laws for once they got there.

The South was very angry when they heard that Abraham Lincoln had been chosen as the Republican candidate. They declared that if he was elected, they would cease to be part of the country! Were they serious, or were they just bluffing?

I wish I could have been there to see Douglas and Lincoln debate. Lincoln stood at the towering height of six feet, four inches tall, while his opponent was a mere five feet, four inches in stature. They were both excellent debaters and presented their platforms well. This was not the first time these two men had run against each other. Two years prior they had both run for senator of Illinois. Stephen Douglas was victorious in that election.

NARRATION BREAK

Retell and discuss what we have read so far.

In our next chapters we will learn the story of Abraham Lincoln, the president during the Civil War. As we learned in the first section of our country's history, sometimes all it takes is one person to change the course of history. One person can make a big difference when he or she is willing to stand up for what is right! Mr. Lincoln was just that kind of person.

Right now, though, I would like to set the stage for the rest of our story. As we are learning history, it is important that we remember to keep ourselves in the time frame in which the story is happening. It is easy to read the stories of people who lived over 150 years ago and think about it from our current time frame. However, America was very different at that time than it is now.

We have learned that America grew unlike any other country had ever grown before. Let's talk about what made America so different right from the beginning. First, in many cases, this country was settled by people who didn't fit well in other countries around the world. Some came because they wanted to worship God in the way they chose, and their mother countries would not allow them to do so. Some came to have more room for their families. They were tired of living in cramped conditions and in poverty.

There was one thing that tied all of these people together though, and that was what I like to call the "get it done" attitude. This attitude helped them through the rough times when they got to this new world. Americans have always been the seekers of freedom. They were not willing to settle for the known but instead pushed themselves to discover the unknown.

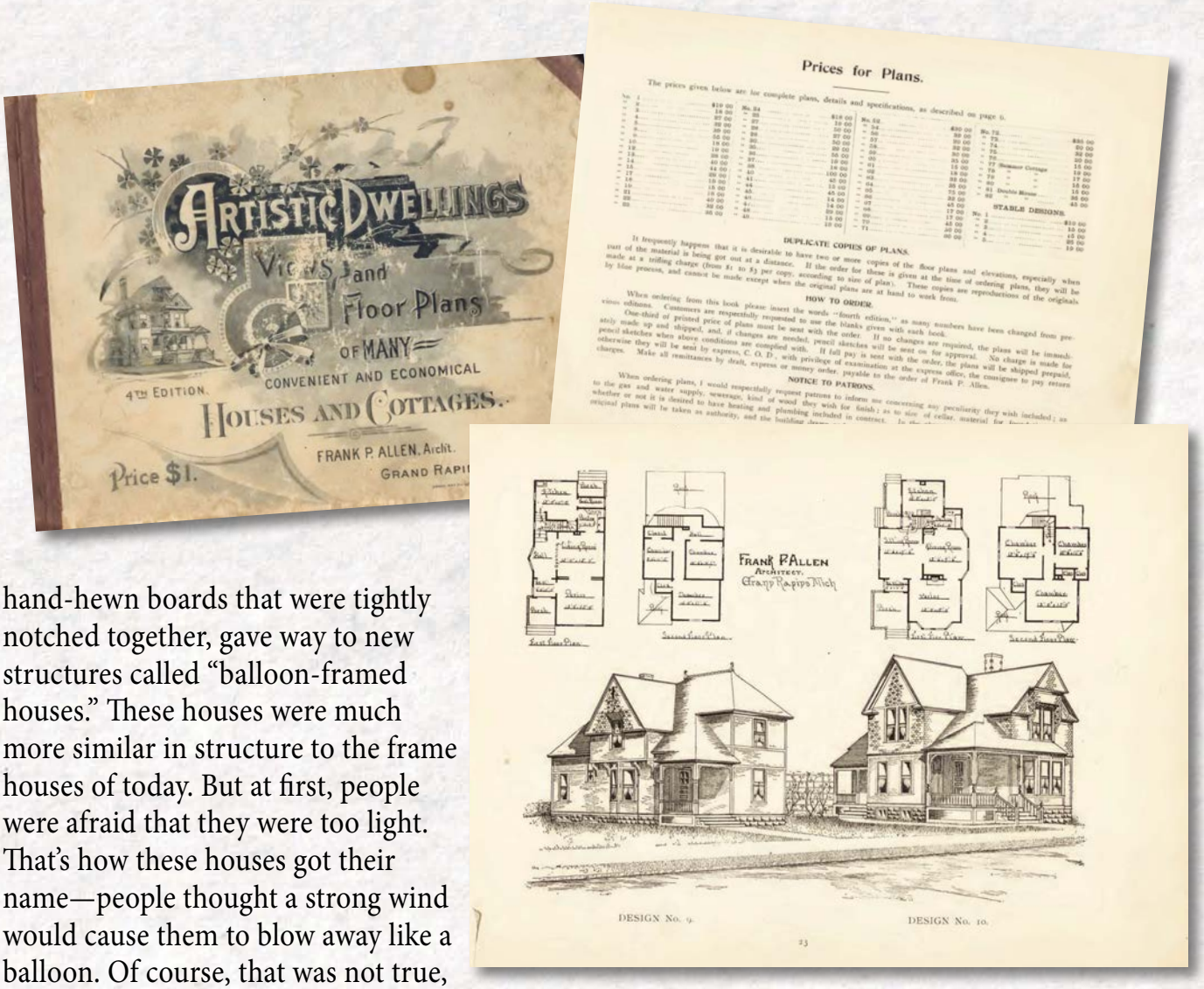
In many places all over the world, nations are ruled by kings and queens. Generation after generation, rulers from the same family reign supreme over the common people. There is no royal family of America. Any child born here could grow up to be the next president. This nation was founded on laws and safeguards that, if followed correctly, keep any one person from having the ultimate power over the rest of the country.

As America grew and the population swelled with immigrants from other countries, the need for housing grew also. Out of what once was wild, untamed wilderness, whole towns sprang up. Have you ever heard the saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention?" In many ways, necessity settled and tamed America.

Because it was necessary for Americans to come up with an easier way to make houses quickly, many new and inventive ways of building became widespread. The old way of building, with heavy,



Twin Sears kit houses



hand-hewn boards that were tightly notched together, gave way to new structures called "balloon-framed houses." These houses were much more similar in structure to the frame houses of today. But at first, people were afraid that they were too light. That's how these houses got their name—people thought a strong wind would cause them to blow away like a balloon. Of course, that was not true, and once people saw that they were still sturdy, they became very popular.

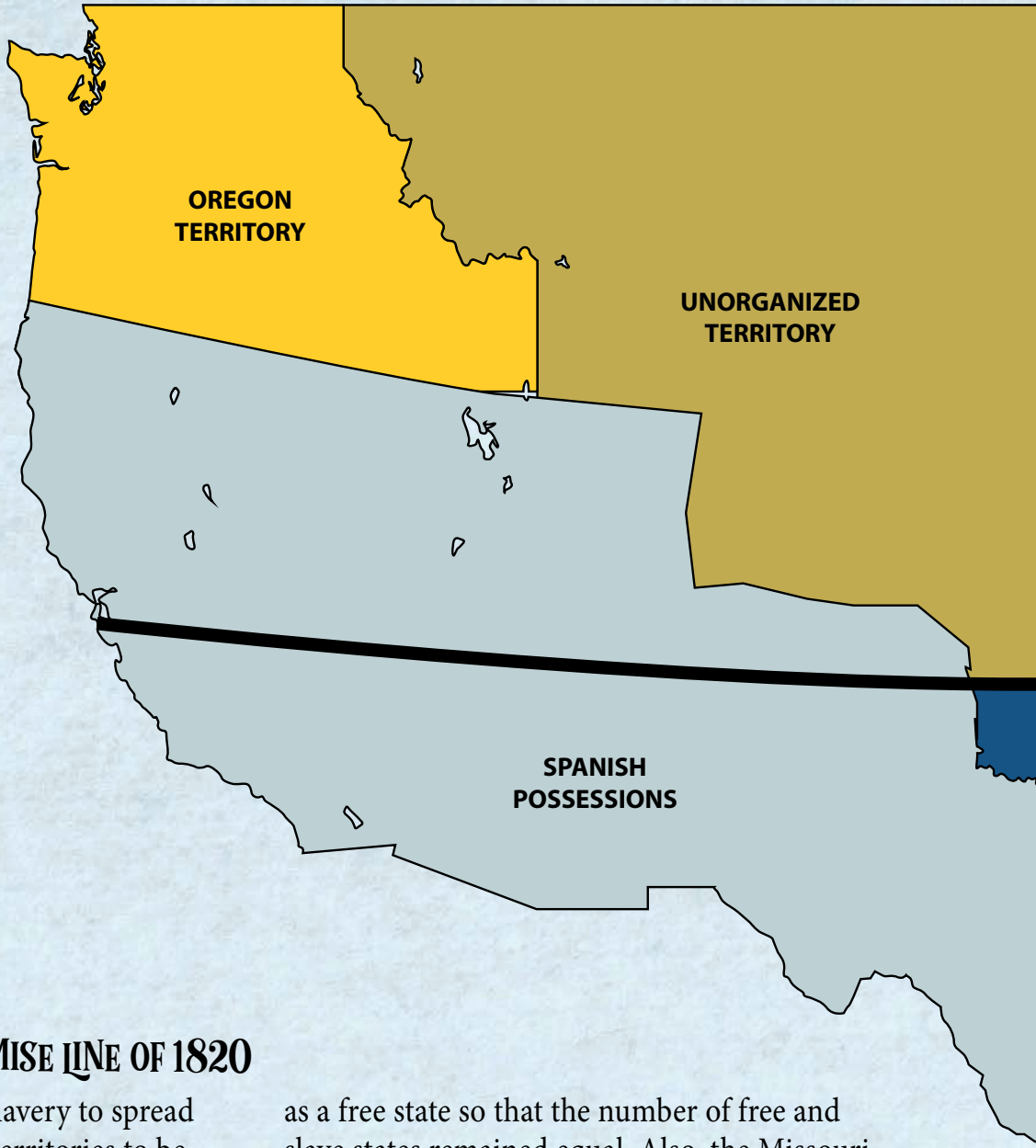
Whole towns were quickly built with this technique. In fact, starting in the 1800s, people could order home kits of material and build within a matter of weeks. By the 1900s, rows and rows of these kit houses, large and small, developed into towns. Uniformity in building materials was made possible through assembly lines and factories. It was much easier to build when the materials were mix-n-match.

Many other everyday items became easier and easier to acquire and maintain. By making them easier to find and use, Americans were finding new and improved ways of supplying our growing country with the things of life.

So, with all of this growing and stretching, issues such as slavery became a more and more haunting problem. How could we continue to grow as a mighty nation, a world power, if there were those among us shackled hand and foot and sold as livestock? Freedom always comes at a price — what price would have to be paid to make this a truly free country? And who would have to pay it?

NARRATION BREAK

Retell and discuss what we have read so far today.



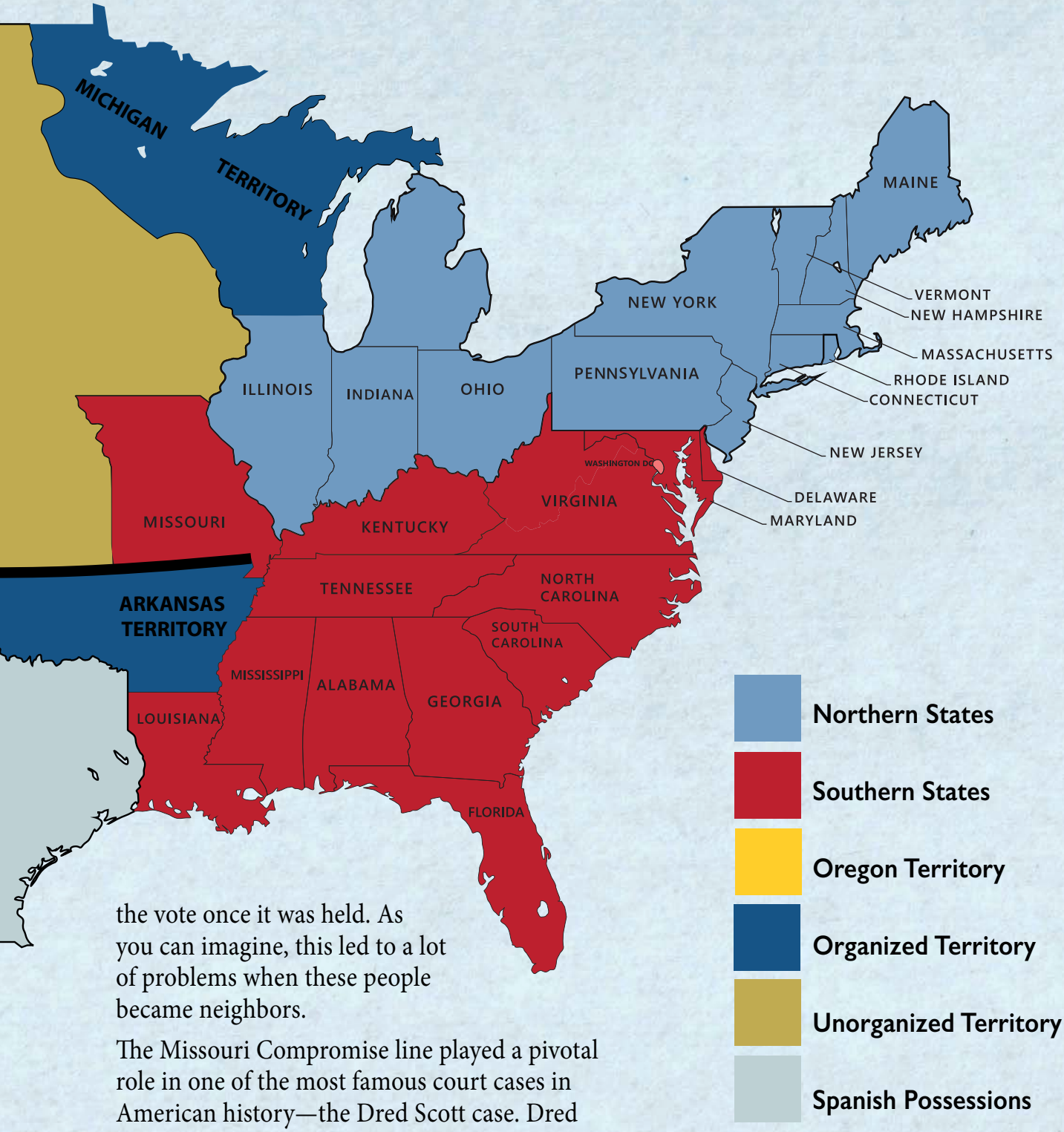
The Missouri Compromise Line of 1820

Abolitionists did not want slavery to spread to new states. They wanted territories to be admitted as free states, where slavery was illegal. Slavery supporters, however, wanted to ensure that they would not be outvoted on the matter in Congress, so they wanted new states to allow slavery.

This became a heated issue when Missouri wanted to become part of the United States in 1819. At the time, there were 22 states—11 free and 11 slave. Missouri wanted to be admitted as a slave state, which would have given slave owners a political advantage.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820 was developed to solve this issue. Missouri would be a slave state, but Maine was also created as a free state so that the number of free and slave states remained equal. Also, the Missouri Compromise created a boundary — future states admitted below the line would be allowed to have slavery while those above it would not.

Neither side was very happy with this agreement, but it stood until the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed in the 1850s. This ruling created the Kansas and Nebraska territories. Though they both were north of the compromise line, the Act allowed them to determine through elections whether they wanted to be slave or free states once they had gained statehood. This ruling angered abolitionists. Both pro-slavery and anti-slavery settlers moved to Kansas in hopes of swaying



the vote once it was held. As you can imagine, this led to a lot of problems when these people became neighbors.

The Missouri Compromise line played a pivotal role in one of the most famous court cases in American history—the Dred Scott case. Dred Scott was a slave whose master, John Emerson, was a doctor for the army. Dr. Emerson bought Dred Scott while living in the slave state of Missouri. When the doctor was transferred to a new post in the military, he took Dred with him. Though Dred Scott was living north of the Missouri Compromise line in Illinois and Wisconsin Territory (part of Michigan Territory on this map), he was still a slave. His master eventually died, and he returned with the man's family to Missouri. But Dred Scott sued, arguing that he was a free man because he had travelled and lived in places where slavery was banned. You'll learn about how the case ended in the feature page for chapter 3 on pages 32–33.

SLAVE LABOR BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR



◀ This painting depicts slaves working on a sugar plantation in the Caribbean, but they also were used on Louisiana sugar plantations.

Slaves also grew other crops. Here, South Carolina slaves are planting sweet potatoes during the Civil War. ▶



Tobacco plantations were most common in the Upper South (Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, etc.). Slaves not only grew the crop but also dried and packed it. ▶

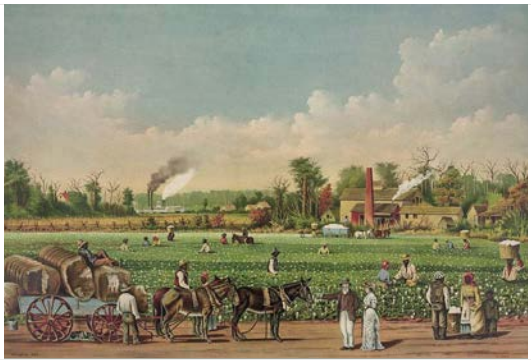




◀ This illustration shows Caribbean slaves working with indigo dye, which was also a common 18th century plantation crop in South Carolina.

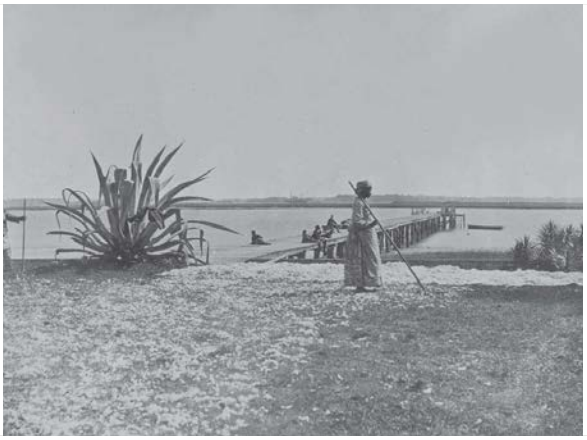
Other slaves worked ▸ in the master's house instead of the fields. This is a kitchen in Alabama, similar to what many slaves would have worked in.





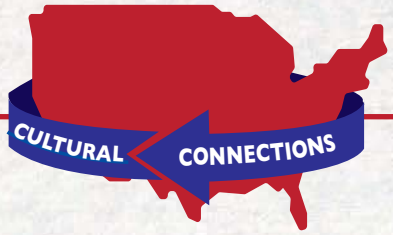
▲ Other slaves worked as skilled craftsmen, such as blacksmiths and carpenters, for their masters.

These slaves are drying cotton ▸ early in the Civil War in 1862.



Rice plantations in South Carolina and Georgia also relied on slave labor. Below is the remains of a rice plantation's dike. ▾





America's innovations in building design, engineering, and construction have truly helped make us who we are today. From the rough, primitive housing that the first Native Americans used thousands of years ago and the hand-hewn log cabins of the Pilgrims, advances in discovering and creating strong, flexible building materials have allowed us to create thousands of types of homes and business buildings. You may find it a fascinating topic to research.



Pilgrim House from Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts



Modern two-story home



Chicago skyline

THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

1. Slave labor, vital to the cotton and tobacco industries, played an important role in the American economy. Cotton and tobacco were grown in the South with slave labor, but the products were frequently processed in the North and sold overseas.
2. Territories were areas that belonged to the U.S. but were not states yet. Enough people had to become residents before the territory could become a state. Disputed territories were flooded with people moving in to speed up the territory's acceptance as a state.

Chapter 2

The Story of Abraham Lincoln, Part 1



Starting Point: Abraham Lincoln exemplifies the American spirit with his life journey from the backwoods, through extreme difficulty, all the way to the presidential suite of the White House. He overcame what may have seemed like insurmountable odds to gain an education and become a servant of his country. He is an excellent example of perseverance.



Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site in Illinois

Log cabins have long been a symbol of the American frontier. People living on the frontier built these homes with their own two hands as they attempted to survive miles from local settlements and "civilization." Lincoln was one of seven 19th century presidents who were born in a log cabin. Though his family lived in the log cabin pictured above after he left home, he was raised in similar cabins on both the Kentucky and Indiana frontiers.



1. **Who can become the president of the United States of America?**
2. **Who were the Whigs?**



Franklin Pierce elected president — November 1852

James Buchanan elected president — November 1856

Kansas becomes a state — January 1861



In the next two chapters, we are going to learn about an amazing American hero. We are learning that history is full of brave men and women who stood up for what is right. In Volume 1 of *America's Story,* we learned about George Washington, the "Father of our Country," and about other courageous Founding Fathers of our great nation. Now we are going to learn about Abraham Lincoln, the president who set all slaves free.

As we learned in our last chapter, America was in turmoil at this time. There were many varying opinions about slavery, and the South was threatening to leave the Union. America needed someone to step up! In order to understand the bigger picture, we are going to start at the beginning of Abraham Lincoln's life. I think you will enjoy this story, for it is a perfect example of how anyone born in America can rise to the position of President.

Abraham Lincoln was born in the backwoods of ***Kentucky,*** on February 12, 1809. Young Abraham, named after his grandfather who had been killed by Indians, had truly humble beginnings! How would you like to live in a one-room log cabin with no windows and a dirt floor? That is exactly what Abraham's first home was.

A few years after he was born, Abraham's family moved to a farm a short distance from his birthplace. Young Abe played and fished in the nearby Knob Creek. He and his sister, Sarah, walked to the little country school whenever they could, which was not very often, where they learned their numbers from one to ten, a little spelling, reading, and writing. Their parents, who had never learned to read and write, which was not unusual for that time, wanted their children to have a better education.

When Abraham was seven years old, the Lincoln family moved north to ***Indiana,*** which was soon to be the 19th state in the Union. After a rough first winter spent in a three-sided shelter, Abe's father built a new cabin for his family. This one was much bigger than Abe was used to. There was even a sleeping loft he could climb up to with the help of a handmade ladder.

When Abraham was nine years old, his mother died. Abe's father knew he needed to remarry so his children would have a mother to raise them. A year later, Abe and his sister, Sarah, met their

stepmother and new step-siblings. Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln was a kind and wonderful mother to the Lincoln children, and she treated them with as much love as her own three children. Abe and Sarah quickly learned to love their new mother.

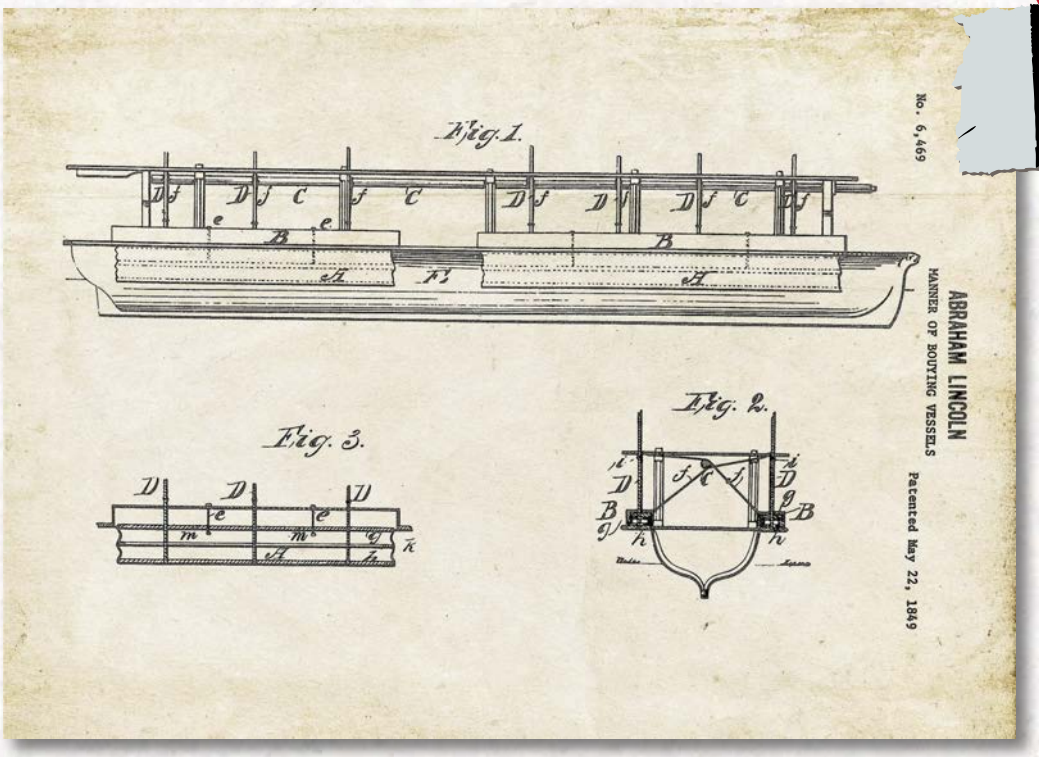
As Abraham grew up, he went to school whenever he could, which sometimes was only for a few weeks a year. He loved to learn though, and like Benjamin Franklin, he was determined to educate himself to the very best of his ability. Abe read everything he could get his hands on. Storybooks, newspapers, and biographies thrilled him! He read stories of the American Revolution in a biography of George Washington and memorized passages from Shakespeare. He carefully practiced his handwriting whenever he could and had a book tucked into his pocket at all times. He became a well-known storyteller and jokester.

It seemed that everyone liked young Abe Lincoln. He was trustworthy, honest, and a deep thinker. As a young man of 17 years, Abe left home for a job as a ferryman's helper on the ***Ohio River.*** He enjoyed his time on the ferryboats.

When Abe was 18, he received sad news. His sister, Sarah, had died while giving birth to her first child. I am sure young Abe spent many nights sitting quietly on the deck of the ferryboat, staring at the stars and remembering the sister who walked with him, hand-in-hand, to the small, country "blab" school (another name for a one-room schoolhouse). Death was very common in those days. Most families went through the loss of at least one loved one by the time the children were grown. Many mothers died in childbirth, and many children didn't live to see their tenth birthday. Yes, many things have changed since then, and advances in the medical field have saved many lives!

NARRATION BREAK

Retell and discuss our story so far.



FERRYBOAT: a vessel that carries people and goods across water

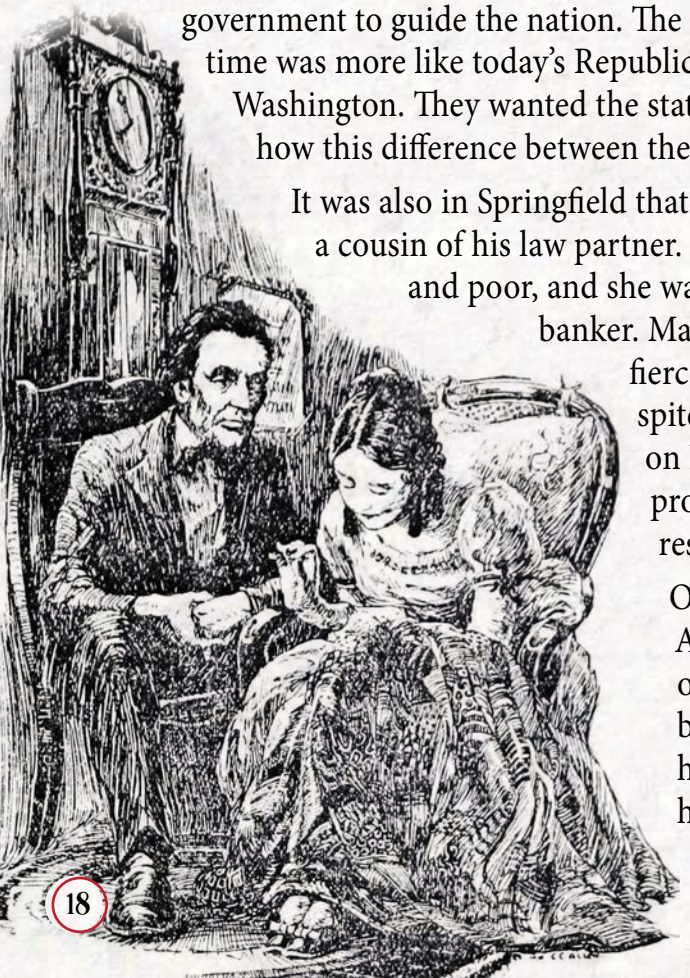
On March 10, 1849, Abraham Lincoln applied for a patent for an invention that lifted boats over obstacles, like sand bars. An experienced ferryman, he had been stuck on sandbars before, which usually required a crew to stop and unload the boat to free it. Though his device would have saved time, it was never made and it is doubtful that it would have actually worked.

Abraham was 23 the first time he decided to run for a political office in 1832. Illinois state legislator seemed like a good position, and his friends urged him to try. His race was interrupted by a skirmish with the Sauk and Fox Indian tribes, who also lived in Illinois. By the time he returned from his volunteer enlistment, it was too late to build enough momentum to win the political race. He finished eighth in the election. Later, he joked about his three-month stint in the militia, in which he did not see any hostile Indians. He laughingly said he had survived "a good many bloody battles . . . with mosquitoes!"

In 1834, Abraham decided to run for state legislature again. This time he did much better, finishing in second place, and was one of four men chosen to represent his county. At that time, representatives were only paid three dollars a day to cover their expenses, so Abraham had to get a job to support himself. With encouragement from his friends and family, he decided to study to become a lawyer. Law had intrigued him for quite some time, and he knew that becoming a lawyer would help him reach his political goals. Over the next three years, he studied law books he had borrowed, and memorized legal codes and precedents. He worked very hard, and in 1837, Abraham passed his exams and was admitted to practice law.

Mr. Lincoln moved to ***Springfield,*** which was a much bigger city than he was used to, and took the position of junior partner in a friend's law firm. John Todd Stuart had been the one who had encouraged Abraham as he studied for his law exam, and now he welcomed his friend. He secured a boarding room situated above a general store and soon was involved in political debate meetings with other young men of Springfield.

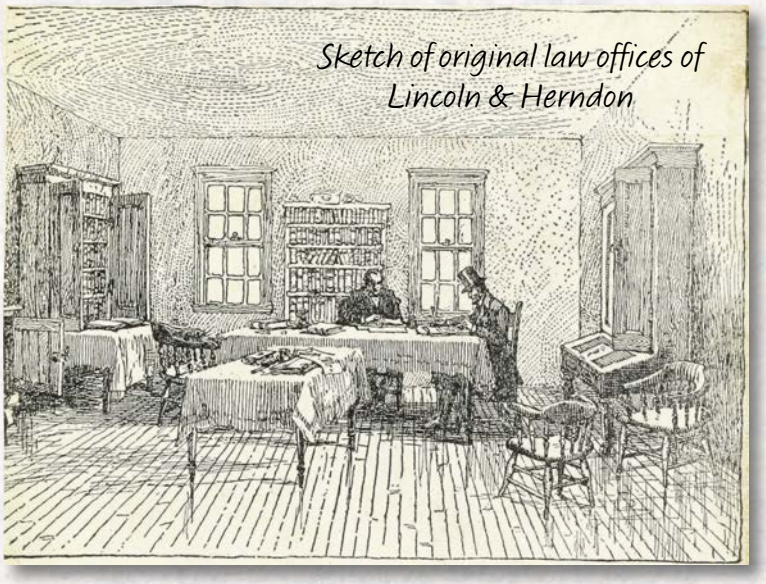
It was at these meetings that Abraham met Stephen Douglas. The two were instant rivals, and they argued about politics whenever they were together! At that time in America, the leading political party was the Whig Party. That's a funny name, isn't it? The Whigs were in favor of strong government to guide the nation. The other party was the Democratic Party, which at that time was more like today's Republican Party. They were in favor of smaller government in Washington. They wanted the states to be able to govern themselves. Later, we will see how this difference between the political parties largely affected the slavery issue.



It was also in Springfield that Abraham met and fell in love with Mary Ann Todd, a cousin of his law partner. They were an unlikely match, for he was tall, gangly, and poor, and she was short, fashionably plump, and the daughter of a rich banker. Mary was intelligent and charming, but she also had a fierce temper and was often difficult to get along with. In spite of her family's disapproval, Abe and Mary married on November 4, 1842. She and Abe had their share of problems, but they remained devoted to each other for the rest of their lives.

Over the next 11 years, the couple had four sons, and Abe's law career flourished. He eventually opened his own law office and invited one of his lawyer friends to be his junior partner. It was during this time that Abe had his mind set on running for Congress, and in 1846, he was elected to the House of Representatives.

There were many issues being dealt with at this time; not only slavery, but also a war with ***Mexico***. Abraham took a very outspoken stand against the war, which damaged his political career. His time in Congress was a disappointment to Abe, and he left office discouraged and disillusioned. Maybe he wasn't cut out to be a politician after all! He decided to go back to being a lawyer, which was something he knew he was good at.



Sketch of original law offices of Lincoln & Herndon

Things were not destined to look up for Abraham Lincoln anytime soon, though. Shortly after his return from Congress, his three-and-a-half-year-old son, Eddie, died. Mary and Abe were inconsolable; Abe buried himself in his work, and Mary refused to leave her room for weeks.

What was going to come of our backwoods lawyer turned Congressman? In our next chapter we will continue the story of Abraham Lincoln. There is a big change coming for our new friend! We will have front row seats as we watch him become the 16th president of the United States. Our nation will be torn in two, and nothing will ever be the same again.

NARRATION BREAK

Retell and discuss the rest of the chapter.



Abraham Lincoln with his wife and sons

Abraham Lincoln Home Sites

Did you know that all of the homestead sites associated with Abraham Lincoln are now museums you can visit? Most of them also display the original homes (or replicas of them) that he lived in when he was there. If you are ever travelling through Kentucky, Indiana, or Illinois, you should stop by one or more to learn more about his life!

❹**Decatur, IL:** Lincoln lived here for only a year with his father and stepmother. When they decided to relocate to another county, he left too, but he also moved out on his own.



❺**New Salem, IL:** For the first several years on his own, Lincoln lived in this small community. This is where he was first elected to the legislature and also where he started his career in law. He even ran a store with a business partner for some time (store depicted).



❻**Springfield, IL**: He moved here when the state capital was relocated to this city. This was where he married and where his children were born. Though Lincoln lived in several houses in Springfield, the one most closely associated with him is the home he and his wife purchased in 1844 and lived in until 1861, when he moved to Washington, D.C. upon becoming President.





❸Spencer County, IN: Lincoln spent the remainder of his childhood at this new home, Pigeon Creek Farm. Here is where his mother died and his stepmother later came to live with the family. The Lincolns didn't move again until Abraham was 21.



❷Knob Creek, KY: This was the earliest place that Lincoln had memories of. His family lived on this farm until he was seven.

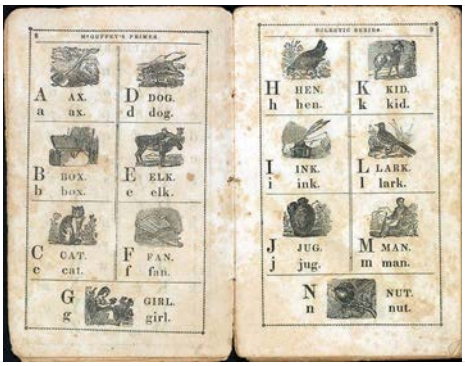


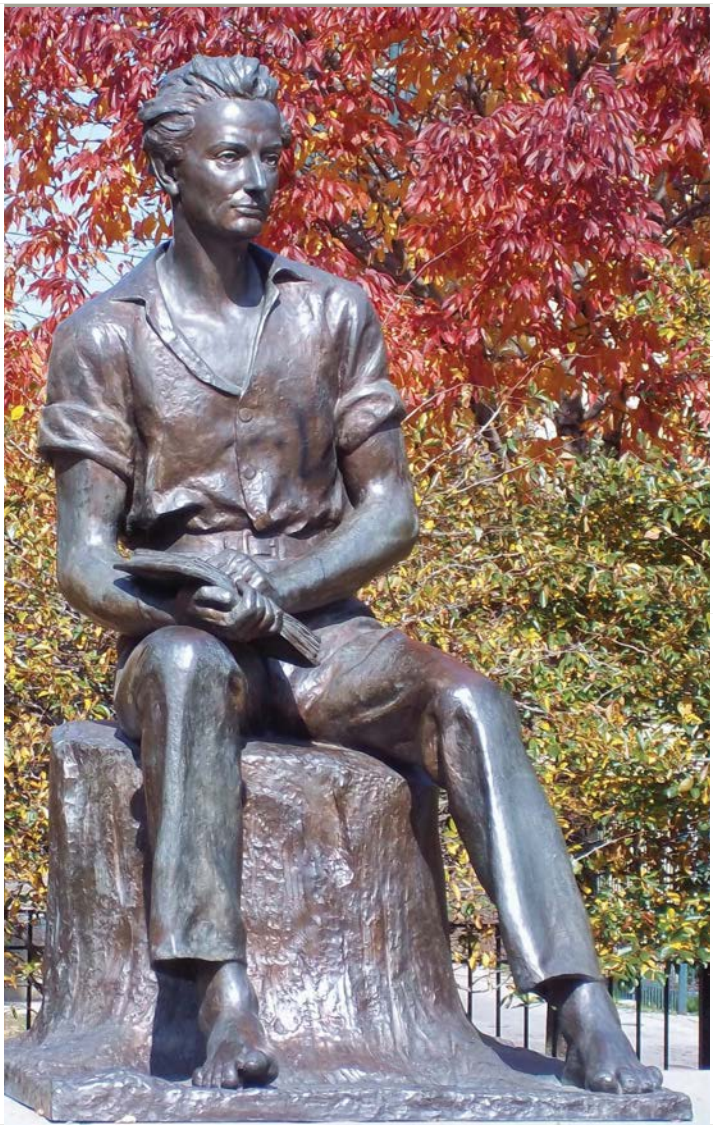
❶Hodgenville, KY: Lincoln was born in his family's log cabin on their 300-acre farm, which they named Sinking Spring. He lived here for the first couple of years of his life with his parents and older sister.

19TH CENTURY BLAB SCHOOLS



◀ Slate pencils were used to write on slates, but one of Lincoln's cousins claimed to have taught him to write with a buzzard quill at home.





The *McGuffey Reader* came ▲ a little after Lincoln's time as a student, but the content is similar to what he would have studied.

◀ Young Abe Lincoln.

Instead of using paper, 19th century students used slates. ▼

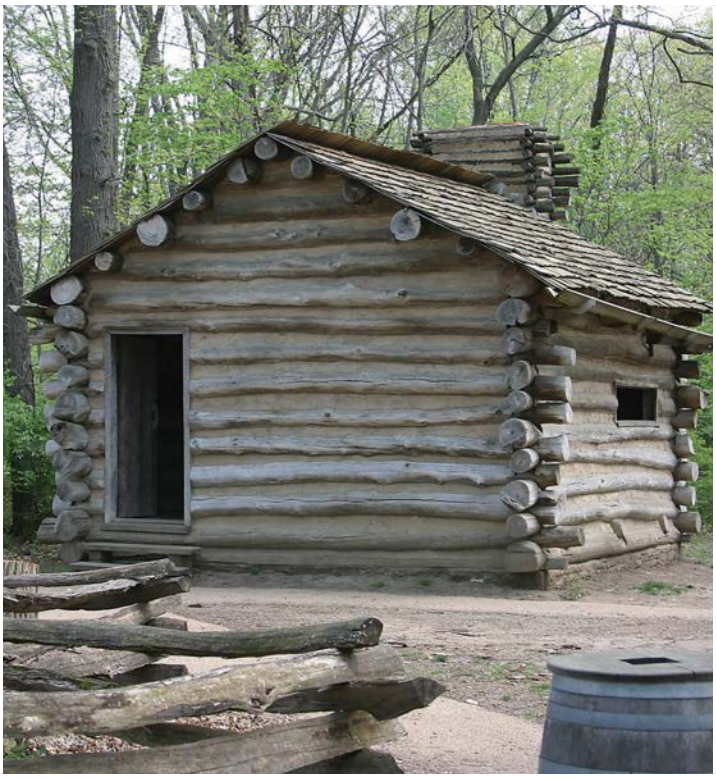




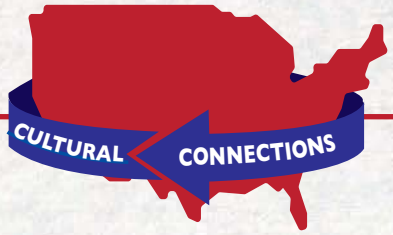
▲ Blab schools were called that because students recited lessons aloud. These schools could be really noisy!



▲ The youngest students were called abecedarians because they were there to learn their ABCs.



The blab school in New Salem, Illinois. Lincoln lived in this town as an adult. ▶



You may have noticed that some people that we have studied in our history story do not go to school regularly. People like Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln hardly received any formal schooling. Schooling laws have changed drastically since than! Truancy laws vary slightly from state to state, but all of them state that schooling is required, whether through public schools, private schools, or homeschooling.



Interior of a one-room schoolhouse



Interior of a modern classroom

THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

1. Anyone born in America can become president.
2. The Whigs were a political party in the 1800s who favored a strong central government. Their leading opponents were the Democrats, who preferred smaller government. Political tension over the size of the government was a major issue in the debate over slavery.