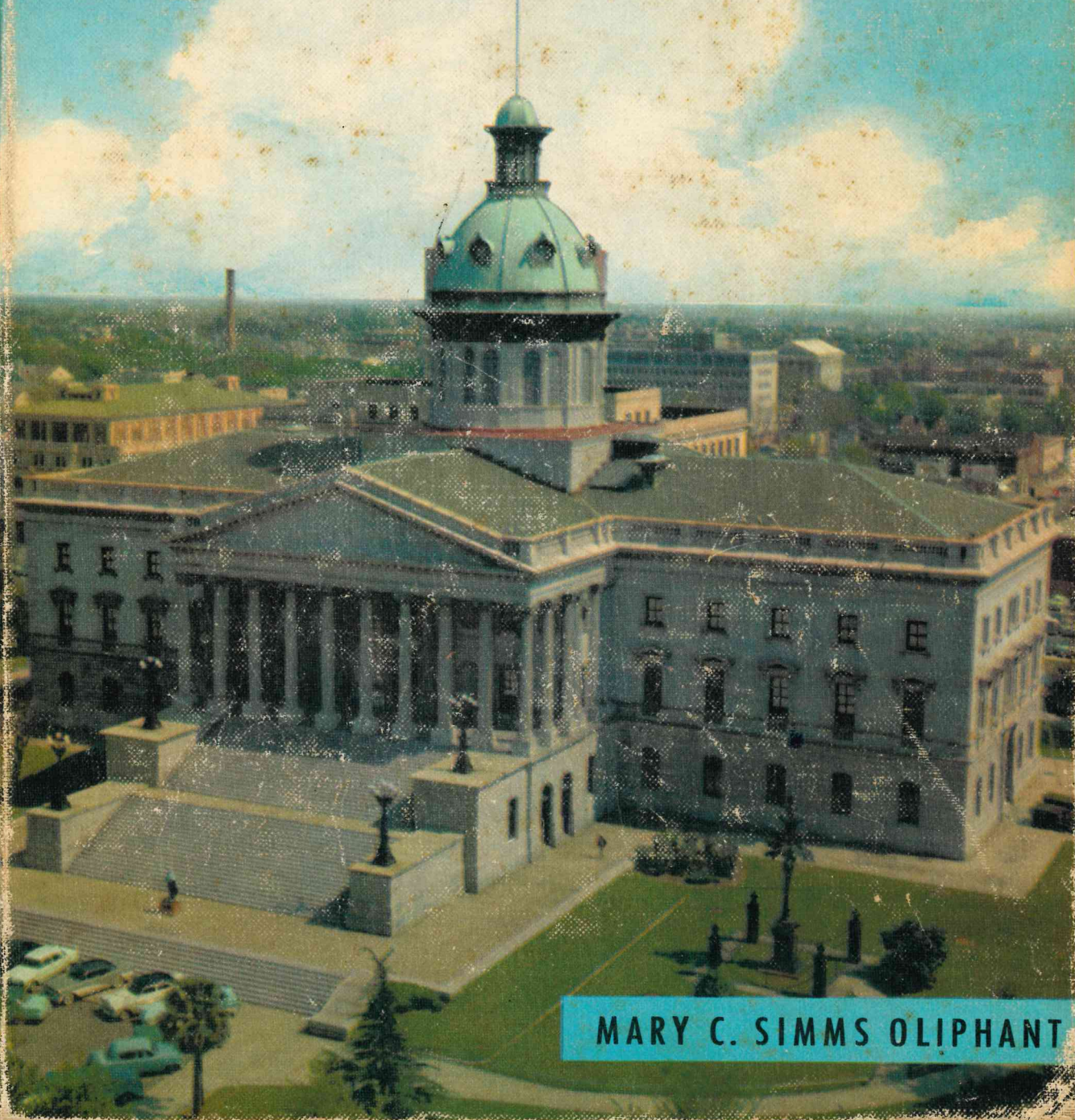


# THE HISTORY OF *South Carolina*



MARY C. SIMMS OLIPHANT





To

**William Gilmore Simms (1806-1870)**

*the first to write a state history for  
the youth of South Carolina*

and

**A. S. Salley**

*for his work in the preservation of  
South Carolina history*

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# The War for Southern Independence

## THE WAR BEGINS

**Results of secession.** South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860. At once five other Southern states followed her example. They were Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana. A sixth state, Texas, seceded on February 1, 1861.

The people of South Carolina realized that war was near. They knew that the North would not allow the Southern states to withdraw in peace. But they had no doubt that the South would win a war. They did not realize that the odds were overwhelmingly against them.

The North had an army, a navy, armories, and arsenals full of guns and ammunition. It had a population of 23,000,000, while the South had fewer than 5,500,000 free people. Even more important, the North owned three quarters of the nation's wealth, two thirds of its railroads, and four fifths of its factories. The South was agricul-

**CHARLESTON**

**MERCURY**

**EXTRA:**

*Passed unanimously at 1:15 o'clock, P. M., December 20th, 1860.*

**AN ORDINANCE**

*To dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America."*

*We, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained,*

*That the Ordinance adopted by us in Convention, on the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also, all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of "The United States of America," is hereby dissolved.*

THE

**UNION**

IS

**DISSOLVED!**





*Bettmann Archive*

An engraving of 1860 shows a group of secessionists unfurling a States' Rights flag at Charleston. Although the South Carolinians knew that war was near, the news of secession was received with joy throughout the state.

tural. It had failed to develop the manufactures necessary for waging war. Its transportation system was inadequate for moving armies and supplies quickly and efficiently over long distances.

The South, however, held certain advantages. Its people were defending their homeland. Southern men were good horsemen and skilled riflemen. They had the habit of command and

were noted for courage and daring. Many of the best officers in the United States Army were Southerners. These men supplied military knowledge and leadership. Although the slaves would not be used in the army, they could be relied upon to do the necessary work at home. This meant that most of the men could leave home to fight with the Southern armies.



**Preparations for war.** In February, 1861, the seven states that had seceded held a convention at Montgomery, Alabama. Here they formed a new union of states, the Confederate States of America. The convention elected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as President of the Confederacy. It adopted a constitution modeled on the Constitution of the United States.

South Carolina began at once to prepare for war. The state militia was reorganized. Committees of Safety and Committees of Vigilance were formed. Minute Men were raised for the purpose of keeping order. The first regiment of volunteers was organized under the command of Colonel Maxcy

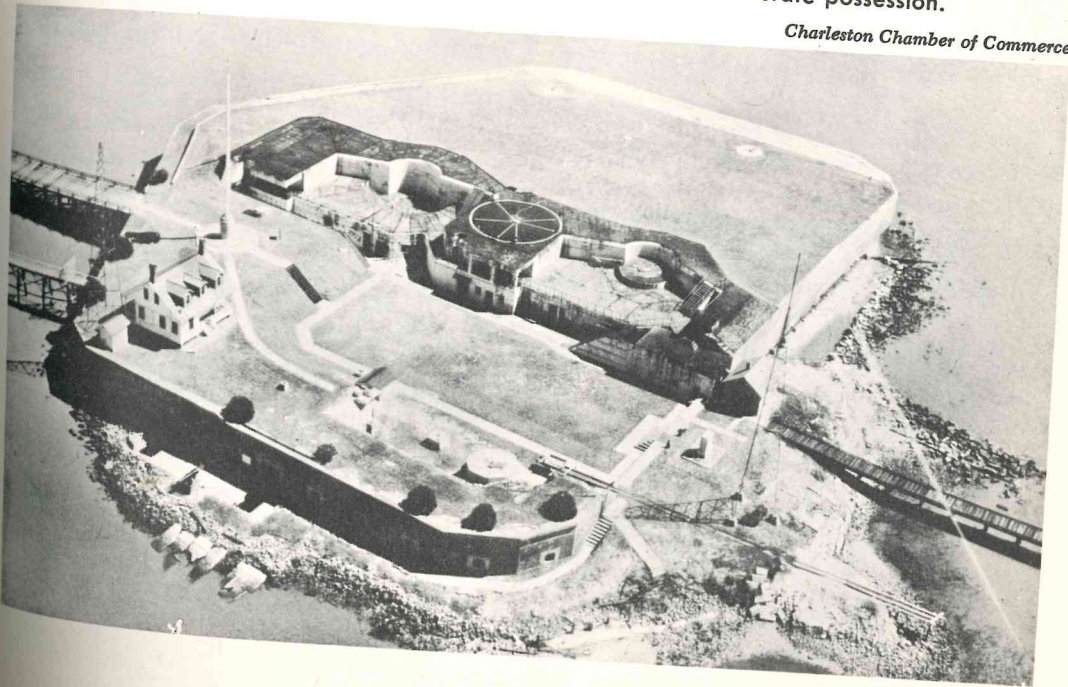
Gregg of Columbia. Ten more regiments of volunteers were formed during the early months of 1861. Major General Milledge L. Bonham, of Edgefield, was in command of these regiments.

**The federal forts at Charleston.** There were three United States forts in Charleston Harbor—Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, and Castle Pinckney. Only one, Fort Moultrie, was garrisoned by federal troops. Their commander was Major Robert Anderson.

South Carolina had sent representatives to Washington to ask for possession of the three forts. But before the negotiators could act, Major Anderson moved his men from Fort Moul-

Today Fort Sumter looks much as it did during the Confederate War, when it guarded Charleston from the harbor. Though heavily bombarded, it remained in Confederate possession.

*Charleston Chamber of Commerce*





trie to Fort Sumter, a much stronger fort. The South Carolinians greatly resented this move. Governor Pickens at once seized Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie, as well as the United States arsenal in Charleston. The commissioners in Washington asked the President to withdraw the federal troops from Fort Sumter. The President, however, refused.

**Fort Sumter.** In January, 1861, the *Star of the West*, a federal ship loaded with supplies and men for Fort Sumter, appeared off Charleston. As the ship steamed by Morris Island, it was fired upon by cadets from the Citadel who were stationed on the island. The *Star of the West* turned back without trying to reach the fort.

In March came news that the federal government was planning to reinforce Fort Sumter. General Pierre

Gustave Toutant Beauregard arrived in Charleston to take command of the Confederate forces there. Troops were hurried into the city until there was an army of twelve thousand men in Charleston.

Early in April President Lincoln informed Governor Pickens that he was sending provisions to Fort Sumter. A storm delayed the federal fleet, and the President's messenger arrived before the ship did. As soon as he heard the news. General Beauregard opened fire on Fort Sumter.

The bombardment of the fort went on for thirty-three hours. People crowded along the wharves to watch. Out in the harbor the federal ships stood helpless, unable to come to the aid of the fort. At last Major Anderson, his food and ammunition gone, surrendered, and the federal soldiers

To prevent the federal forces at Fort Sumter from receiving reinforcements, General Beauregard ordered his men to open fire. After thirty-three hours of bombardment, the fort was surrendered.

*Charles Phelps Cushing*







At Manassas, the first real battle of the war, the soldiers of the Confederacy not only defeated the Union forces but put them completely to rout.

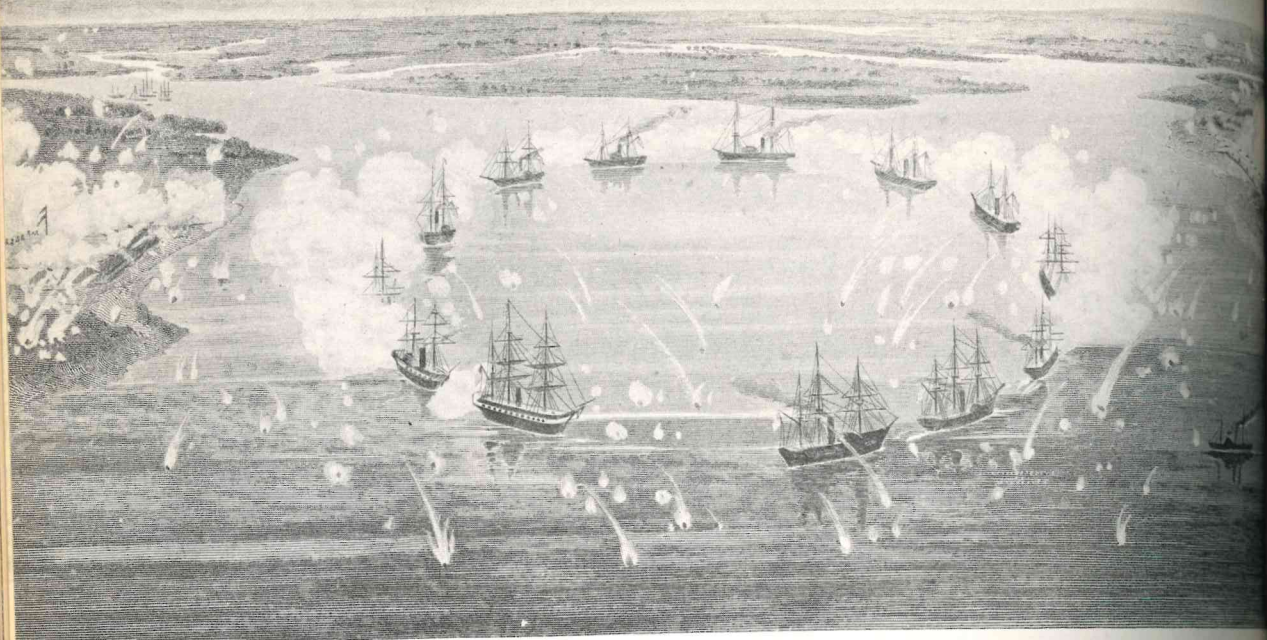
marched out under a white flag. Not a man had been lost in the fighting, but two federal soldiers had been killed when a gun exploded. One South Carolinian lost his life from exposure—a young poet named William M. Martin. He was the first Confederate to give his life for the South.

The North arms. Many people now thought that the war was over. In reality, it had just begun. President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee refused to fight their sister states. They seceded and joined the Confederacy. The Confederate States of America were now eleven in number.

Richmond, Virginia, became the capital of the Confederacy. This made it very probable that the fighting would begin in Virginia. One of the chief aims of the North would be to capture Richmond. Confederate troops were sent at once to defend Virginia. The first to arrive were Maxcy Gregg's regiment, and nine of the other ten South Carolina regiments were soon on their way. With them was the Hampton Legion, organized by Wade Hampton, grandson of the famous Revolutionary leader.

**The Battle of Manassas.** The first great battle of the war took place at Manassas Junction in July. Three South Carolina regiments and the





An old engraving illustrates the bombardment of Port Royal by Union ships. The harbor was not strongly defended, and the whole Port Royal region soon fell into enemy hands.

Hampton Legion took part in the battle. Not yet realizing the seriousness of the war, members of the United States Congress and other Washington people drove to Virginia in carriages to watch the battle. They saw the federal troops completely defeated. There was a general rout. As the Union soldiers retreated, they dropped guns, ammunition, and provisions.

It was at the Battle of Manassas (known also as Bull Run) that General Thomas J. Jackson, of Virginia, received his nickname. During the fighting General Barnard E. Bee, of South Carolina, called out, "Look at Jackson! There he stands like a stone wall!"

From this time on Jackson was known as "Stonewall" Jackson. Wade Hampton was wounded in the battle, and General Bee himself was killed. The South Carolina troops received high praise for their gallantry.

**The fall of Port Royal.** In November, 1861, a fleet of seventeen vessels arrived in Port Royal Sound. The harbor was defended only by two weak forts. Beaufort and the rich rice and sea-island cotton region near by soon fell into the hands of the Northern forces. The South Carolina troops fell back, and the people of the region went with them. Their fine plantations were sold for a few pennies, an acre,



and their houses were looted of their treasures.

After the fall of Port Royal, the Secession Convention met again to consider what should be done. It set up a council made up of the governor and four members. The council assumed control of the government and the mil-

itary forces of the state. Meanwhile, General Robert E. Lee was placed in charge of the defense of South Carolina and Georgia. He gave up all the sea islands except those necessary to the defense of Charleston. Thus the year 1861 ended with a part of South Carolina lost to the South.

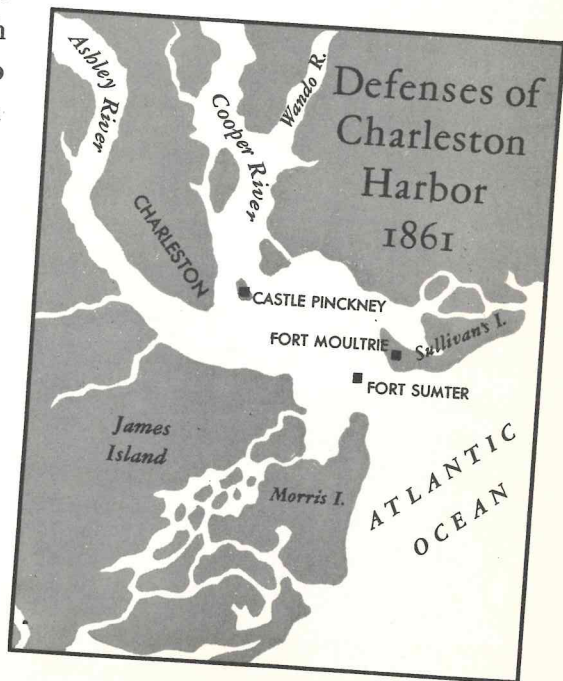
## THE SOUTH WINS BATTLES

**Defending Charleston.** South Carolinians now felt that it would not be long before Charleston was attacked. The work of strengthening the coast defenses began. The forts were improved, and batteries of guns were placed on the islands in the harbor. About fourteen thousand soldiers were stationed on James Island alone. Troops were also placed at points along the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. Their responsibility was to protect the railroad from the Union forces at Port Royal.

Governor Pickens called for more volunteers, and every district of the state responded generously. Some of the new soldiers were kept at home to defend the coast. Some were sent to Virginia to join the Confederate army there, and some went to join the Confederate army of the West.

**An attempt to take Charleston.** In May, 1862, Union soldiers from Port Royal tried to seize the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. They were driven

back, but in June they tried to break through the defenses on James Island. They were pushed back by a much smaller force, fighting desperately under Lieutenant Colonel Ellison Capers (later a beloved Episcopal bishop). The fighting on the island went on for several days. The rain fell constantly, and the Confederate soldiers,





wet and weary, slept on their arms, waiting for the big attack.

Colonel Thomas G. Lamar commanded the important fort at the eastern end of James Island. He was asleep on a wall of the fort when the attack began. He roused the garrison by pulling the lanyard of a great gun. General Johnson Hagood, of Barnwell, and his men came up in time to save the fort. The Union soldiers were driven back, and Charleston was saved.

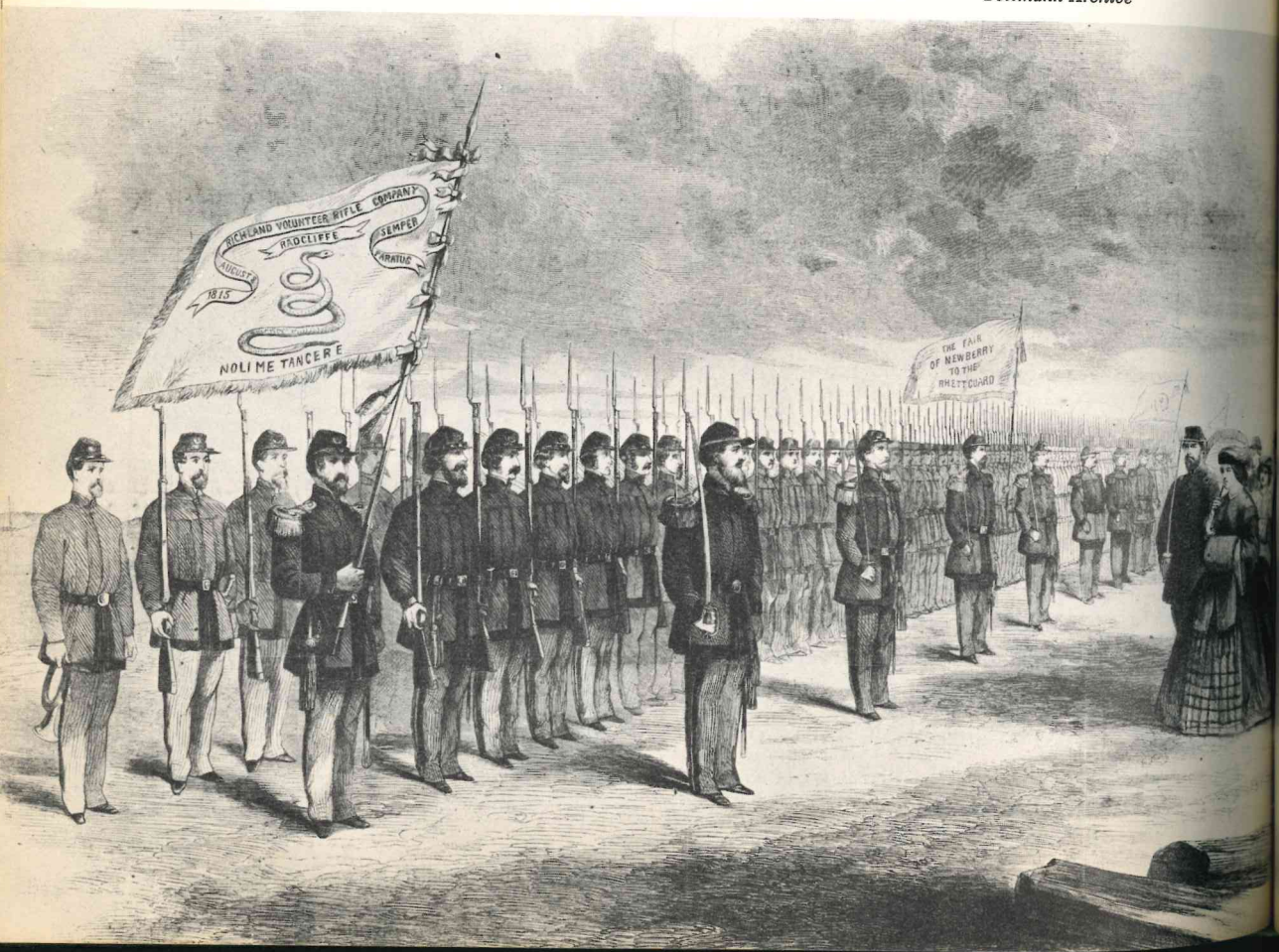
**The fighting in Virginia.** Meanwhile, a Union army was trying once more to

take Richmond. With a force only one third as large as that of the North, General Joseph E. Johnston met and defeated the federal forces at Williamsburg. Two noted South Carolina generals were with Johnston. One was General Micah Jenkins, who led a force known as the Palmetto Sharpshooters. The other was General Richard H. Anderson, whose nickname was "Fighting Dick."

At Seven Pines, almost within sight of Richmond, Johnston defeated the Union army again. Here the general

Governor Francis W. Pickens, of Edgefield, led South Carolina from 1860 to 1862. Here, with his wife and daughter, he reviews the state's troops on Sullivan's Island.

*Bettmann Archive*





was wounded, and Robert E. Lee took his place as commander in chief of the Confederate forces. General Wade Hampton led a brigade at Seven Pines, where he suffered terrible losses. The next day he was severely wounded, but continued to fight.

Many South Carolinians fought with Stonewall Jackson in the campaign around Richmond. Jackson marched his men four hundred miles within a single month, fighting six battles and a number of smaller engagements. He captured thousands of prisoners and a quantity of badly needed supplies. The Confederates won victory after victory until the Union army withdrew.

**The Second Battle of Manassas.** A third attempt to take Richmond took place in the summer of 1862. Lee and Jackson stationed their forces at Manassas Junction, where they had won their first great victory. Like the other Confederate soldiers, the South Carolina troops marched wearily to Manassas. On the march they lived on green corn and apples. Their path was marked by bloodstains left by their bare feet. The battle began when Jackson ordered Gregg's South Carolina brigade to find the position of the enemy. Gregg's men fought so desperately that 600 men of the 1,500 in the brigade were killed or wounded. The battle ended in a terrible defeat for the North.

**Lee's offensive.** Lee was so encouraged by these victories that he decided to invade Maryland. Jackson was with him when he met a much larger army at Sharpsburg, often called Antietam. The losses on both sides were fearful. Lee and Jackson held the field of battle, but their losses were so great that they could not proceed. They were forced to retreat into Virginia.

In October, 1862, a force of Confederate soldiers was sent into Pennsylvania. General Wade Hampton was second in command during this raid, and Colonel M. C. Butler, of Edgefield, had charge of his advance. The Confederates seized Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and Hampton was made military governor of the town. He hurried back to Virginia with a thousand captured horses, but avoided doing any damage to private property.

**Fredericksburg.** At the end of 1862 a large Union army attacked Lee's much smaller army near Fredericksburg. Here Colonel Maxcy Gregg charged, at the head of his men, directly into the enemy's fire, his horse rearing and pitching in terror. Gregg was mortally wounded in the fighting, but the battle ended in a great victory for the Confederates.

After the battle Wade Hampton learned that a wagon train carrying Christmas provisions was on its way to the Union army. He sent Colonel M. C. Butler to surprise the train while



the Union soldiers slept. Butler captured the stores. The new clothing and food came as a welcome Christmas treat for the Confederate soldiers. Toward

the end of 1862 they were so ragged and forlorn that their prisoners laughed at them and admired them at the same time.

## THE TIDE TURNS

**The fighting in the West.** Lee's army in Virginia was victorious, but the Confederate forces in the West were losing in 1862. South Carolina had two regiments with this army. Their commander was Colonel A. M. Manigault. In spite of several Confederate victories, the Union army seized most of Mississippi and much of Arkansas and Tennessee.

The Confederate forces were greatly outnumbered. They lost two forts on the Mississippi and failed to hold the field at the bloody Battle of Shiloh. At Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a battle raged from December 28 through the last day of the year. Neither side won. The Confederate army in the West, however, was being slowly cut to pieces. If the city of Vicksburg fell, the Mississippi would be in the hands of the North, and the Confederacy would be split in two.

**The attack on Charleston.** From the beginning of the war, soldiers and skilled workers had labored to strengthen the defenses of Charleston Harbor. Pine timbers were driven into some of the channels to keep out enemy ships. Rope obstructions were placed

across the channels to entangle enemy propellers. Two ironclad boats, the *Palmetto State* and the *Chicora*, had been built to defend the city.

The entire South Carolina coast was blockaded by Union ships. Charleston was the chief port through which the South received supplies. During the first years of the war, small fast boats succeeded in running the blockade. Later, however, few boats could get through.

In April, 1863, a Union fleet appeared off Charleston. Union soldiers were landed on Folly Island, near James Island. Ironclad vessels steamed past Morris Island toward Fort Sumter, and the attack on the fort began. All the batteries and forts in the harbor opened fire on the federal ships. The air was filled with smoke, and heavy guns roared with deafening thunder. Shells tore through the walls of the fort and set fire to the men's straw mattresses.

The batteries on Morris Island held out for fifty-eight days. Finally, the Confederates were forced off the island when their water and food were exhausted. From Morris Island the



federal troops continued to shell Fort Sumter for about nine months. By the end of 1863 the fort was a mass of rubble. But the soldiers rebuilt the fort almost as fast as it was knocked down. Finally the shelling stopped. The Union forces had given up the attack, but their ships remained just outside the harbor.

**The fighting in Virginia.** Not long after the attack on Fort Sumter began, the Confederates won a great victory at Chancellorsville, Virginia. The battle was fought during the first three days of May, 1863. The fighting of the Southern forces was superb, but their losses were great. A great tragedy cast a black cloud over the victory, for Stonewall Jackson was accidentally killed, in the dusk, by his own pickets. Many Confederates felt to their dying day that if Jackson had lived, the war might have been won.

**Gettysburg.** After winning at Chancellorsville, Lee marched into Pennsylvania. He hoped to put an end to the war by threatening Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. The Union troops pursued him. The two armies met at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1. The battle fought here was the turning point of the war.

The first banner raised at Gettysburg was the flag of Maxcy Gregg's old First South Carolina Volunteers. As usual, the Confederates were greatly outnumbered. At first they seemed to be win-

ning, but on the fourth day Lee was forced to withdraw. Both sides suffered heavy losses. The losses of the North were greater than those of the South, but the South could not afford its losses. The Southern states had almost exhausted their resources.

South Carolina suffered dreadfully at Gettysburg. Of the 472 men of the Fourteenth Regiment, only 82 came out alive. Of 39 men of Company K of this regiment, 34 fell at the first fire.

**Vicksburg.** In the summer of 1863 the Union army surrounded the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and cut it off from the world. The only food in the city was mule meat, dried peas, and corn meal. By July 1 all food was gone. The starving garrison held out three days longer before surrendering to General Grant. The surrender took place the day after Gettysburg. The South was now cut in two. The war was really lost, but the South refused to admit defeat.

**Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge.** After the fall of Vicksburg, the Union army marched east, and by September, 1863, it had taken possession of Chattanooga. Three South Carolina brigades fought with the Confederate army in the West. The Confederates, greatly outnumbered, made a stand at Chickamauga, in Georgia near the Tennessee line. The battle was one of the bloodiest of the war. At the end of two days' fighting the Confederates had



won, but many a brave South Carolina soldier lay dead.

The exhausted Confederates made camp on Missionary Ridge, near Chattanooga. Here they were attacked and defeated by the entire Union army of the West. After the battle the two

armies kept up a steady artillery duel. One afternoon in November the Union forces broke through the Confederate line. The Confederates retreated into Georgia, leaving the entire Mississippi Valley in the hands of the Union forces.

## THE WAR IS LOST

**South Carolina in 1864.** By 1864 South Carolina had touched the bottom of its reserve of man power. Few were left but the aged, the weak, and the sickly. The colleges and academies were closed. The state had been drained of its young men.

Federal troops held Beaufort, Port Royal, and Folly and Morris islands off Charleston. Soldiers at Fort Sumter were fighting behind a mass of ruins. The ironclads were still shelling Charleston, and the city, with the islands near by, suffered attack almost daily.

**The women.** While South Carolina men fought gallantly on the battlefields, the women of the state played an important part at home. They raised the money to pay for a gunboat, the *City of Charleston*, and provided most of the money for a second gunboat.

When the government could not furnish enough clothing for the soldiers, the women brought old spinning wheels and looms down from their at-

tics. To color their homemade cloth they used dye made from berries and roots. Old men and little children did their part by winding yarn. In every community the women organized sewing circles and worked from daylight until dark. Still, however, there was not enough cloth. The women took down the curtains from their windows and made them into underclothing for the soldiers. They took up the carpets from their floors to use as bed covering, sending their blankets to the front. They tore up sheets, tablecloths, and pillowcases for bandages.

As time went on there was a shortage of food and other necessities. The women made coffee from burned rye, wheat, sweet potatoes, or okra seed. They made tea from blackberry leaves and sassafras roots. They concocted medicines from roots and herbs. They sent boxes of food to the soldiers at every opportunity.

It was in 1861 that the sick and wounded men began to return from the battlefields in large numbers. With



every year there were more. The young girls of Columbia, among them Wade Hampton's daughter, were the first to organize a hospital to care for them. From this small beginning, wayside hospitals sprang up in nearly every community of the state. Many South Carolina women went to Virginia and to the West to nurse the wounded soldiers.

It became the usual thing for women to meet the trains, carrying baskets of food, bandages, and medicines. They fed and bathed the soldiers and dressed their wounds. They always provided great jugs of broth for the patients who were very ill.

One woman who typified the women of South Carolina was Mrs. Sarah K. Rowe, of Orangeburg. Mrs. Rowe boarded the train each day, riding from Orangeburg to Kingville to care for the wounded soldiers on the train. At Kingville, she got off and waited for the down train in order to attend the soldiers on it. At Branchville she got off again and waited for the night train to Orangeburg. The women of the district sent all the food and supplies they could get to Mrs. Rowe.

One soldier was so sick on the journey home that he would not eat a morsel. When the train stopped at Union, a lady boarded it. She was soon feeding him hot broth. When he had finished, he sighed contentedly, "It takes a gal to feed me!"

#### TIMETABLE OF KEY EVENTS IN THE CONFEDERATE WAR

December, 1860...	Ordinance of Secession passed
February, 1861....	Confederate States of America formed
April, 1861.....	Fort Sumter taken by South Carolina
July, 1861.....	First Battle of Manassas won by Confederates
November, 1861..	Port Royal seized by Union forces
May, 1862.....	First attack on Charleston fails
April, 1863.....	Bombardment of Charleston begins
July, 1863.....	Battle of Gettysburg lost by Confederates
July, 1863.....	Vicksburg falls to Grant
February, 1865....	Columbia burned by Sherman's army
April, 1865.....	Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court-house

**Virginia in 1864.** Early in 1864 General Grant was brought to Virginia to defeat Lee. Grant had 150,000 men—well drilled, well fed, and well supplied with guns and ammunition. Lee had fewer than 60,000. His soldiers lived on "crawly" bacon, wormy peas, and peaches and berries from the countryside. Their uniforms were in rags and tatters, and they had no shoes. The men were in a state of exhaustion. Medicines were so scarce that the sick



and wounded received only the simplest treatment.

Grant began his march toward Richmond early in May. The armies met in a densely wooded swamp known as the Wilderness. The battle ended in victory for the South, but the losses were great. South Carolina lost General Micah Jenkins in the battle. In one brigade alone 481 men were killed.

There was fighting every day after the Wilderness until the Battle of Spotsylvania on May 12. Grant tried to break through Lee's line but failed. On June 3 Grant attacked Lee at Cold Harbor. It is said that the bloodiest half hour in American history occurred here. There were many South Carolinians among the troops that met the Union charge. Grant lost ten thousand men, and gave up the attempt to take Richmond. Instead, he laid siege to the town of Petersburg.

The siege lasted all summer and winter. Often the Confederate soldiers stood waist-deep in water as they met the attack. The worst day of the siege was July 30, when the Battle of the Crater was fought. The federal troops tunneled under the Confederate breastworks and laid charges of powder. In the explosion nine South Carolina companies were blown up. The survivors, along with two other South Carolina companies, were first to meet the charge as the Union troops advanced.

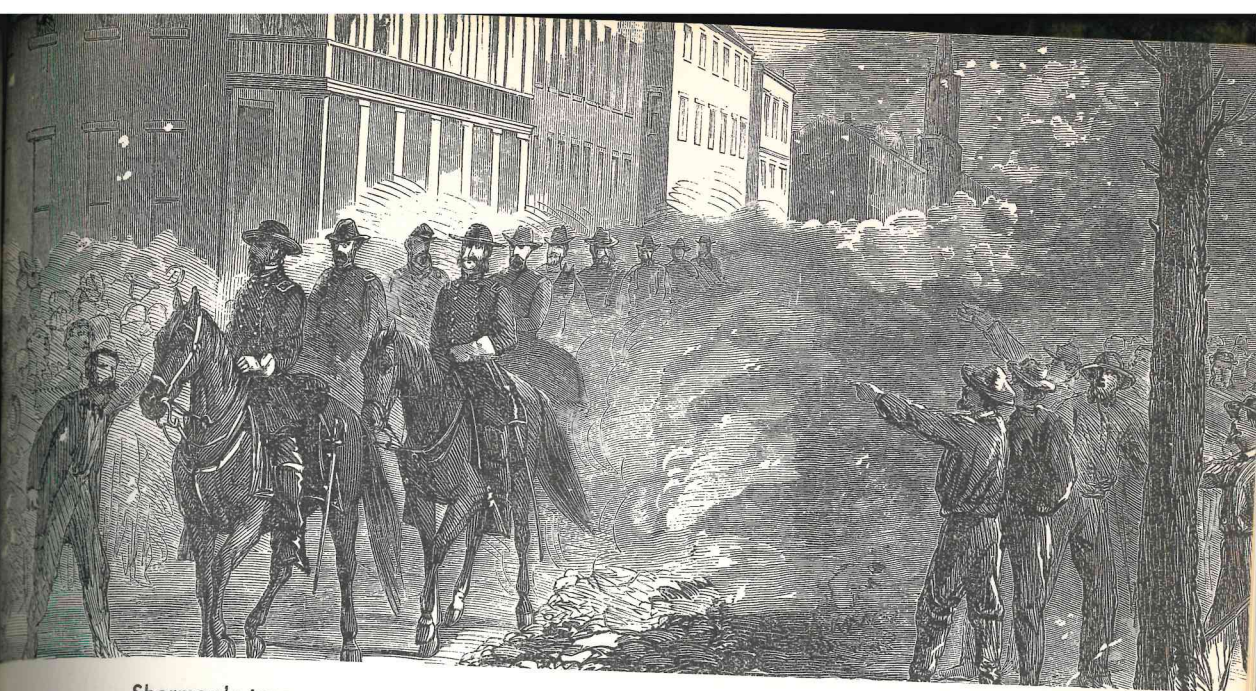
**Hampton's activities.** Just after the Battle of the Crater, General Wade Hampton was made commander of Lee's cavalry. His task was to keep open the lines of supply. He fought a force much larger than his own at Trevillian Station, preventing the Union army from destroying a valuable railroad.

Hampton harassed the Union forces in every possible way. He burned their camps and seized their supplies. In one raid, known as the "beefsteak raid," he captured more than two thousand head of cattle as well as huge stores of supplies. The supplies and cattle were more than welcome to the starving Confederate soldiers.

**A losing fight.** Win victories though they might, the Confederate forces found that the tide of battle was running against them. Northern fleets blockaded the coast, preventing cotton from going to Europe and arms and ammunition from being brought in. The railroads were wearing out, and there was no material with which to repair them. Manpower was nearly exhausted. Young boys and old men were fighting against overwhelming numbers. But the Confederate soldiers still fought on, with a gallantry that cannot be described.

**Sherman's march.** When the Confederate army in the West retreated to Georgia, General William T. Sherman followed with an army of 100,000





Sherman's troops were unopposed as they entered Columbia. The men did not believe, in spite of their general's promise, that he intended to spare the city.

men. The two armies battled all the way from Dalton to Atlanta. At last, on September 3, 1864, Atlanta was captured and destroyed. The Confederate army escaped into Tennessee. In the middle of December the exhausted army met two Union armies at Nashville and was utterly defeated.

Sherman then marched across Georgia from Atlanta to Savannah. As he marched, he left a wide path of destruction. It was his aim to make the South incapable of continuing the war. By Christmas, 1864, he had reached Savannah and stood at the doorway of South Carolina.

**Sherman in South Carolina.** In Savannah Sherman's soldiers talked openly of punishing South Carolina for leading the South out of the Union. Sherman divided his army into four parts,

ordering them to march in parallel lines. Their path across South Carolina was forty to sixty miles wide. Everything in this path was destroyed. Sherman's soldiers burned houses, ran off livestock, destroyed crops, and took everything that could be carried away.

Many fine houses were destroyed by Sherman's men. Among these was Woodlands, the home of William Gilmore Simms, which housed the finest private library in the South. Next door, the Northern soldiers sacked and burned the home of General Jamison, president of the Secession Convention.

As Sherman's army passed, it left the towns of Blackville, Midway, Barnwell, Branchville, Orangeburg, and Lexington in flames. On February 17 Sherman entered Columbia as Wade Hampton, hopelessly outnumbered,



marched out. The mayor of the city surrendered it to the Union general, who promised that no harm should come to it. But the Union soldiers did not believe that Sherman really wanted to spare the South Carolina capital. That night the city was set on fire, and the greater part of it was burned. Among many fine homes destroyed by the flames was Millwood, the home of the Wade Hampton family.

**Potter's Raid.** Sherman's march was followed by that of General Edward E. Potter. Potter left Georgetown on April 5 and marched through the Pee-dee section to Manning and Sumter. His plan was to destroy only locomotives and cars loaded with supplies, but he could not prevent his soldiers from burning and pillaging as they marched. One family was burned to death in their home. Potter himself saved the life of ex-Governor Manning as he was about to be murdered by the soldiers. There were many instances of such acts of gallantry on the part of Union soldiers.

**The surrender of Lee.** General Lee's army was starving. His men could scarcely march. Lee realized he would

have to give up both Richmond and Petersburg. Fighting as he went, he turned upon the enemy at Farmville and drove them back in one last desperate attack. But he knew the struggle was hopeless. On April 9 he surrendered his army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, in Virginia. Lee's army numbered only 26,375 men. Only the skeletons of the old divisions, brigades, and regiments remained. Of one South Carolina division there were only 250 men left.

The war was over. Many of the Confederates could not believe that, with so many victories to their credit, they could have lost. At Appomattox the soldiers wept openly. One soldier expressed the attitude of the South when he mournfully remarked to a Union soldier, "We have worn ourselves out whipping you."

The war was a tragedy in the life of South Carolina and of the South. It has been said that all of the state's history led up to it, and everything that occurred afterward happened as a result of it. The war, with the peace that followed, was a disaster from which South Carolina is still recovering.

## *SUMMING UP*

Six Southern states immediately followed South Carolina out of the Union. They set up their own union, the Confederate States of America, and made Richmond their capital. Four more states soon joined them. The fighting began when South Caro-



lina attacked and seized Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor. The first great battle, at Manassas, was won by the South, and the Confederate armies went on to win many other battles, often against great odds. In 1863, however, the tide of battle turned against them with the Union victory at Gettysburg. From this point on it was only a matter of time until the North, with its superior resources, should win. But the South, refusing to acknowledge itself beaten, fought on desperately. South Carolina was drained of man power, but Charleston, although suffering attack for long periods, was never captured. In 1865 a Union army commanded by General Sherman marched through the state, burning and looting as it went. The war ended in April, 1865, when Lee, unable to fight any longer, surrendered the remnants of his army.

## HELPS TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING

### *Understanding the Main Thoughts*

1. Summarize the advantages held by the North and the South.
2. List the important battles mentioned in this chapter, and give the date and the result of each.
3. Trace step by step the events that forced Lee to surrender his army.
4. Explain what is meant by the statement: "All of the state's history led up to the Confederate War."

### *Recalling Significant Details*

1. Name the states that formed the Confederate States of America.
2. Why did South Carolina attack Fort Sumter?
3. What effect did the choice of a capital for the Confederacy have on the conduct of the war?
4. How did General Thomas J. Jackson receive his nickname?
5. Why was it important to the Southern cause to hold Charleston?

6. Describe the part played by South Carolina women in the war.

### *Using Maps*

Use the map on page 263 to follow the story of the attacks on Charleston.

### *Pronouncing Words*

Can you pronounce all the names in this chapter? The pronunciations given below may help you.

Beauregard	boh' rih' gahrd'
Hagood	hayg' wood
Manigault	man' ih goh

### *Something Interesting to Do*

Ask your parents to tell you if any of your people fought in the battles named in this chapter and under whom they fought. Find out what other experiences your ancestors may have had during the war. Make notes on the information you get and report to the class.



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## *The Ordeal of Reconstruction*

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### *AFTER THE WAR*

**Conditions in South Carolina.** The war ended in April, 1865. The men who had fought returned home to find themselves facing starvation. A large part of the state was almost as barren as a desert. Homes, barns, and crops had been burned. Horses and livestock had been taken away. Wagons, plows, and tools had disappeared.

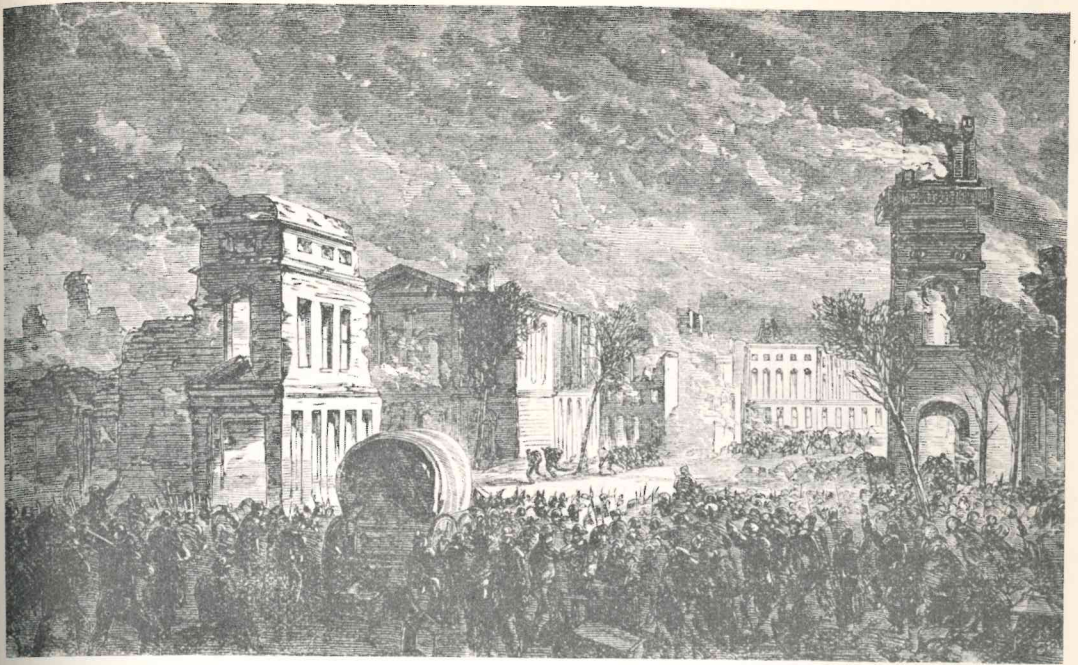
Columbia, the capital city, had been almost completely destroyed by fire. Many smaller towns had also been burned. Charleston was badly damaged by shot and shell. The wharves of the city were rotting, the walls of the houses blackened with smoke.

People found themselves so short of food that they scraped up the grains of corn that Union soldiers had dropped in feeding their horses. Those South Carolinians who still possessed silver, jewels, or furniture now sold them for money to buy food. Henry Timrod, the famous poet, wrote, "We have

eaten two silver pitchers, one or two dozen silver forks, several sofas, innumerable chairs, and—a huge bedstead!" Many formerly wealthy citizens had to seek charity from the Freedmen's Bureau. This was an agency set up by Congress to provide for the needs of the Negroes.

**The returning soldiers.** Of the more than 60,000 South Carolinians who had fought for the Confederate cause, about 40,000 had been killed or wounded. People commented on the scarcity of young men and the fact that there were so many women dressed in black. Those soldiers who returned home began life again as best they could. Many a former Confederate officer drove a streetcar or worked as a common laborer in a railroad yard. On the farms and plantations many a family set up housekeeping in a small outbuilding that had escaped the flames. At once they went to work on





The flames had left Columbia, as well as many smaller towns, in ruins. At the end of the war the people of South Carolina faced the heavy tasks of rebuilding.

the land to meet their desperate need for food.

The men of South Carolina had always been known for their pride. Some outsiders considered them arrogant. Now, however, they accepted their fate without whining or complaint. They were thankful to have work that would provide food for their wives and children.

The Negroes for the most part stayed on the plantations or farms. They agreed to work for wages or to accept a part of the crop in payment for their labor. The relationship between the whites and the Negroes on the plantations was at this time very friendly.

Most of the slaves had proved their affection for and loyalty to their masters. They had planted the crops during the war and had looked after the families of the men who had gone to war. For more than four years the women and children had remained on the land with only the Negroes to protect them.

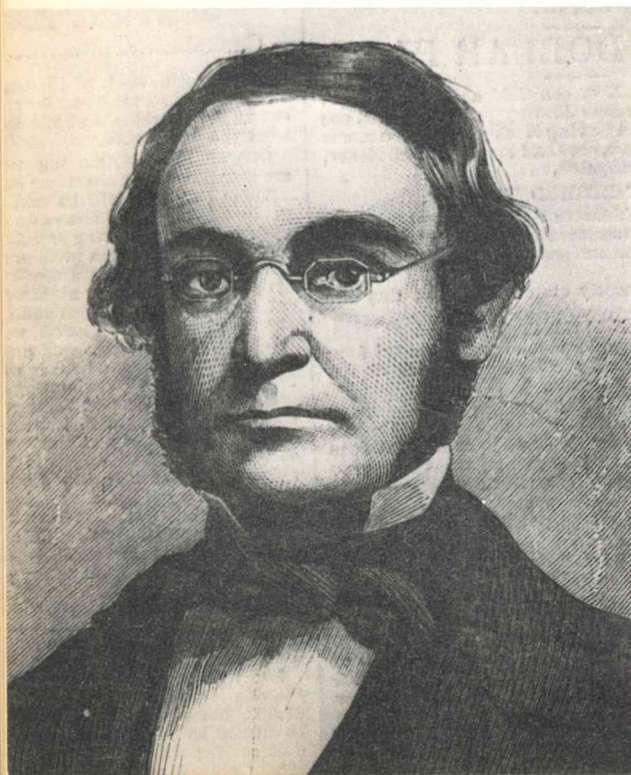
**The President's plan for reconstruction.** The people of South Carolina and of the South realized that they had been defeated, and they knew they would have to submit to the terms that were offered them. They thought that they understood what these terms would be.

President Lincoln had made it clear that he had no wish to punish the South for the war. Unfortunately, he was killed by an assassin soon after the surrender at Appomattox. The Vice-President, Andrew Johnson, became President. Johnson tried to carry out Lincoln's plan for bringing the Southern states back into the Union. He issued a pardon to all Confederates except generals, high officials, and men who possessed more than \$20,000.

The last governor of South Carolina under the Confederacy, A. G. Magrath, had been seized and sent to prison. In June, 1865, President Johnson appointed Benjamin F. Perry of Greenville as provisional governor.

Benjamin F. Perry was appointed as provisional governor of the state by President Johnson.

*South Caroliniana Library*



Perry had been a Unionist ever since the struggle over nullification. He was acceptable both to the South Carolinians, who loved and respected him, and to the President.

Governor Perry at once called a convention to frame a new state constitution. The convention met in Columbia in September, 1865. The constitution it adopted was one that was believed to be acceptable to President Johnson. It contained several reforms, among them the election of the governor by the people instead of by the legislature. In the election that followed, James L. Orr, of Anderson, was chosen governor.

The regular session of the legislature met in November. It recognized the freedom of the Negroes by ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. This amendment prohibited slavery in the United States.

The South Carolinians felt that they had now fulfilled the requirements for statehood. They had adopted a new constitution, had set up their state government, and had ratified the Thirteenth Amendment. The legislature elected Benjamin F. Perry and John L. Manning as South Carolina's United States senators. These men set out for Washington.

The question of the Negro vote. South Carolina had a tremendous problem to face in the sudden freeing



of thousands of uneducated slaves. These people had no experience in citizenship and government. Most of them could neither read nor write. Moreover, they outnumbered the whites about two to one. At the time of the constitutional convention, Governor Perry, Wade Hampton, and a few other leaders had wished to grant some voting power to some of the Negroes. Most of the delegates at the convention, however, refused to consider doing so.

As it turned out, this was not a wise decision. Even more unwise were the laws passed by the state legislature to regulate the conduct of the former slaves. These laws were intended to help in keeping order. They did, however, as a protection for the whites, set up special rules and punishments for Negroes. Similar laws were passed in several Southern states. They came to be known as "Black Codes," and a howl of protest over these laws was raised in the North and in Congress. It was claimed that the South meant

to put the Negroes back into slavery.

**Congress acts.** When Congress met in Washington in December, the Republican party was in complete control. The Republicans showed open hatred and keen bitterness toward the defeated South. They were in no mood to accept the President's plan. They refused to permit the newly elected senators from South Carolina to take their seats. Instead of restoring the Southern states to the Union, they sent a committee to investigate conditions in the South.

When it returned, the committee reported that the Southern states were still defiant and rebellious. Congress then passed the Fourteenth Amendment, which gave Negroes the right to vote and sit on juries. Before the Southern states could return to the Union, Congress declared, they would have to ratify this amendment. All the Southern states except Tennessee refused to ratify the amendment. The South Carolina legislature rejected it with only one dissenting vote.

## THE COMING OF RECONSTRUCTION

**The Reconstruction Acts.** Congress now passed a series of laws known as the Reconstruction Acts. Except for Tennessee, all the Confederate states were to be placed under military rule. No person might vote if he had held any public office under the Confeder-

acy or if he had fought in the war. This did not leave many white voters in South Carolina. There was scarcely a man of military age or a teen-age boy who had not borne arms. President Johnson vetoed the Reconstruction Acts, but Congress passed them over

his veto. In the spring of 1867 Major General Daniel E. Sickles arrived in South Carolina to take command of the federal troops that occupied the state.

**Carpetbaggers and scalawags.** A horde of adventurers now swarmed into South Carolina to see how they could profit from the unsettled conditions there. The people who came into the Southern states to steal or to make their fortunes became known as “carpetbaggers.” It was said that when they came, they owned so little that all their possessions could be placed in a carpetbag. Many left rich, carrying away everything from grand pianos to fam-

A cartoon by Thomas Nast indicates the low esteem in which carpetbaggers were held.

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ily portraits. Others stayed to take part in governing the Southern states.

Some Southerners joined forces with the carpetbaggers to rob their own states. They were known as “scalawags.” To help the Republican party seize control of South Carolina and the other Southern states, the carpetbaggers and scalawags made use of the Negroes. The Freedmen’s Bureau became the headquarters of the Republicans, or Radicals, as they were called. This bureau had done good work after the war in providing food and work for whites as well as Negroes. As a center of political activity, however, it earned the hatred of white Southerners.

**The constitution of 1868.** In October, 1867, General Sickles called for a general registration of voters. So many whites had been disqualified that there were twice as many Negroes as whites who registered. Most of those who registered voted for a convention to frame a new state constitution. The convention met in Charleston in January, 1868. It had forty-eight white and seventy-six Negro members. All but four of the delegates were Radicals, and most of them paid no taxes.

The convention proceeded to adopt a constitution patterned on those of the Northern states. In some ways this was a good constitution. It abolished imprisonment for debt, allowed married women to control their own property, and permitted divorce. Like the



Constitution of 1865, it gave the people the right to elect the governor. It also provided, for the first time, that representation in the state House of Representatives should be based on population alone.

The Constitution of 1868 created the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and provided for a system of public schools for all the children of the state. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to carry out this provision. The Radicals in control of the government stole so much money that there was none left for the schools.

When the election was held, the Democrats were outvoted three to one. The new legislature was made up chiefly of carpetbaggers, scalawags, and Negroes under their influence. The new governor was Robert K. Scott of Ohio. The Radical legislature ratified the Fourteenth Amendment and elected Republican senators. Congress permitted South Carolina once more to become a state, but the federal soldiers remained. Without them the Republican government would not have been able to stay in power.

**Eight years of Reconstruction.** For the following eight years South Carolina was governed largely by a ruthless band of thieves. The men who ran the government were more dangerous than ordinary gangs of robbers. They took advantage of the ignorance and lack of experience of the Negroes.

Negroes were told that the Democrats wanted to put them back into slavery. Those who would not vote Republican were threatened and mistreated. Moreover, the Republicans had the encouragement of Congress and the backing of federal troops.

The Republicans saw that many Negroes were elected to the legislature. The governor, the attorney general, and the state treasurer were Northerners. Many members of the legislature could neither read nor write. The selling of votes became a common practice. To get a law passed, it was necessary to bribe the legislators. The state's money was openly stolen by the members of the legislature, who used it to buy luxuries for themselves.

Yet all these thefts were nothing in comparison to what came later. Grown bolder than ever, the politicians began to grab public utilities such as railroads. The state's debt increased tremendously, and taxes mounted higher and higher. Thousands of acres of land had to be sold to meet them. While the Radicals stole and wasted, the people in the state hospital were in need of food and the teachers in the schools were not paid. Within eighteen months the public debt of the state jumped from \$5,407,306 to \$14,833,349. In another year it had risen to \$18,575,033.

**Feeling between whites and Negroes.** The worst part of Radical rule was the



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The klansmen were a terrifying sight to those they sought to punish or to intimidate. They rode only at night, masked and clad in long white robes.

change it brought in the relationship between the whites and the Negroes. To a large extent the carpetbaggers and scalawags managed to break up the old feeling of friendship and confidence. They deliberately aroused suspicion among the Negroes and played upon their fears.

The Republican state government organized companies of state militia made up of Negro soldiers. These were men who had never before even handled a gun. Not surprisingly, some of the Negroes lost their heads. Murders and burglaries took place. Houses and barns were burned. For the first time in the state's history, men were afraid to leave their families unprotected.

**The Kuklux Klan.** Feeling that their property and lives were in danger, the white men began to form a secret organization. This organization, the Kuklux Klan, had come into existence in Tennessee. At first the Klan was intended only as a means of maintaining order.

The Klan met only at night. The members dressed in long white robes and caps. They built bonfires and burned crosses. The sight of the mounted klansmen in their white robes was enough to terrorize the Negroes. When the courts did not punish Negroes who were supposed to have committed crimes, the Klan punished them. As the Klan became more active,



murders, houseburnings, and burglaries grew fewer. But the evil results of taking the law into one's own hands soon appeared. Carpetbaggers and scalawags began to disguise themselves as klansmen when they wished to punish someone for a private grudge. Some klansmen, too, used their robes to disguise acts of private vengeance.

Public meetings were held in Spartanburg, Union, and York counties to warn people against the danger of taking the law into their hands. Governor Scott finally disbanded some of the Negro militia. By May, 1871, there were no further complaints about the Klan. After all was quiet, however, President Grant declared nine counties in a state of rebellion because of the activities of the Klan. Federal troops were sent into these counties, and hundreds of citizens accused of belonging to the Klan were thrown into jail.

The "Robber Governor." After four years of corrupt government under Scott, the Republicans elected a new governor. He was Franklin J. Moses, Jr., a scalawag from Sumter. During his administration the state sank to its lowest depths of misery. Because of his open stealing, Moses became known as the "Robber Governor."

In 1874 a meeting of citizens was held in Columbia to protest against the dishonesty of the government. It was decided to send a petition to Congress and to have a committee see the President to beg for relief. Congress, however, believed the Radicals, who had submitted a report of their own. President Grant received the South Carolinians with great rudeness and said that South Carolina must help itself.

The South, however, had many good friends in the North. These friends sent gifts of money, food, and clothing into South Carolina during the hard years following the war. Even in Congress the state had good friends. Here is a part of a report that was made to Congress by a small group of congressmen:

"... the cry of that outraged, helpless and suffering people has reached our hearts as well as our understanding. That once prosperous and beautiful State is on the verge of ruin. A horde of thieves and robbers, worse than ever infested any civilized community on earth, have her by the throat and are fast sucking her blood. Three hundred thousand of her citizens, descendants of those who fought and won with our fathers the battle of American liberty, are crying to Congress for redress—for help. To refuse their request is to drive them to despair and ruin."

## THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION

Chamberlain as governor. In 1874 Daniel H. Chamberlain of Massachu-

setts became governor of the state of South Carolina. For a short time it

looked as though better times had come. Chamberlain openly accused the legislature of dishonesty and tried to put an end to the corruption in the state government. The Radicals became alarmed at his attitude. The Democrats were so pleased that they considered endorsing Chamberlain for governor instead of naming a candidate of their own.

By this time the Democrats were determined to get rid of the carpetbaggers and scalawags. A Democratic club was organized in every county. Some Democrats wanted to re-elect Chamberlain. Others urged that the party try to elect what they called a "straight-out" ticket—a Democrat for every office, from governor to coroner.

In July, 1876, there was trouble between the Negro militia of Hamburg and two white men of Edgefield. The white men were arrested. It was reported that the Negroes were threatening to lynch them, and a large group of white men gathered. On the day of the trial, the Negroes barricaded themselves in a small brick building. In the excitement no one knew who started firing, but a young white man of Edgefield named McKee Meriwether was killed. The white men finally forced the Negroes from the building and shot five of them to death.

Governor Chamberlain declared that the white people were entirely to blame in this affair. His stand ended all

Democratic support for him as governor. Instead, the Democrats nominated candidates for every office, with Wade Hampton as their candidate for governor.

**The "Red Shirt Campaign."** The Democrats armed themselves for the election, forming what were called saber and rifle clubs. The women made the men red shirts that gave the campaign its nickname, the "Red Shirt Campaign." Bands of armed, red-shirted men on horseback were an impressive sight. When the political meetings began, farms were left untended, stores were closed, and business stopped. "Hurrah for Hampton!" became a battle cry and a call to action.

A great effort was made to persuade Negroes to vote for Hampton. Three men stood out as leaders in the campaign. They were General M. C. Butler, General Martin W. Gary, and Colonel Alexander C. Haskell. All three had served under Hampton in the cavalry.

Hampton begged everyone to avoid trouble with the Republicans, but in spite of his warning, rioting did occur at several places. The most serious violence took place at Ellenton. As a result Chamberlain, though he admitted the Democrats were not at fault, ordered the rifle and saber clubs to disband. The governor stationed soldiers in every county, and many Democrats were arrested and thrown into jail.



**The election.** When election day at last arrived, the Democrats went to the polls determined to win. There is no question that both parties used dishonest methods in the voting. On both sides, people voted more than once. Many boys voted who were not old enough to vote. Both sides tried to protect the Negroes who were loyal to their side and to frighten away those who were not.

When the votes were counted, Wade Hampton had won. He said that the Democrats had won with the aid of their Negro friends, in spite of the efforts of the Radicals to turn their former slaves against the whites. He further declared that even if every dishonest vote had been thrown out, he still would have won. Because of their confidence in Hampton, South Carolinians believed that this was true.

**Two state governments.** The new state House of Representatives had 65 Democrats and 59 Republicans, while the Senate was made up of 15 Democrats and 18 Republicans. The Republicans, however, would not accept the result of the election. They declared that Chamberlain was elected and that the votes from Edgefield and Laurens counties must be thrown out because of election frauds. If this were done, the Republicans would have a majority in both houses.

When the legislature met in November, Governor Chamberlain asked



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After the election of 1876 federal troops kept Democrats out of the State House.

President Grant to send troops to keep Hampton and the Democrats out of the State House. The troops arrived. The Democrats from Edgefield and Laurens counties were refused admission to the House of Representatives. An armed crowd of thousands of angry Democrats began to march upon the capital.

Hampton begged his people to keep the peace. He knew that an outbreak would only bring further misery to the state. He persuaded the Democratic

members of the House to leave the State House. They marched to Carolina Hall and elected General William H. Wallace, of Union, as speaker. The Democratic House became known as the "Wallace House."

Two days later the Wallace House succeeded in entering the State House. For several days the two groups held sessions side by side, making speeches and transacting business in the same hall. The Wallace House withdrew again to Carolina Hall when it looked as if there would be rioting if they stayed.

The question of which was the lawful House of Representatives and the lawful governor was taken to the state supreme court. The court decided in

favor of the Wallace House. Still, however, Chamberlain and his government would not give up, and for several months there were two governors and two governments in South Carolina. Both governors were inaugurated by their supporters.

Fortunately for South Carolina, a new President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, had been elected. Hayes conferred with both Hampton and Chamberlain and then withdrew all federal troops from the Southern states. Without the troops the rule of the carpetbaggers and scalawags collapsed. Hampton was the governor of the state, and South Carolina was once more in possession of its own government.

### *SUMMING UP*

South Carolina lay in ruins when the defeated soldiers returned. Accepting defeat, the people set about the work of rebuilding. They framed a new state constitution, ratified the Thirteenth Amendment prohibiting slavery, and asked to be readmitted as a state. Congress, however, cast aside the President's plan of reconstruction and adopted its own plan. Federal troops occupied the Southern states, and no one who had served in the war was allowed to vote or to hold office. With the help of the federal troops, the Radical Republicans gave South Carolina nearly eleven years of corrupt rule. In 1876 the white people, led by Wade Hampton and aided by many Negroes, managed to regain control of their government. The Republicans refused to accept their defeat, but were forced to do so when President Rutherford B. Hayes withdrew the federal troops. South Carolina was left to the South Carolinians once more.



## HELPS TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING

### *Understanding the Main Thoughts*

1. Describe conditions in South Carolina after the Confederate War. What was the attitude of the people?

2. Why did Congress refuse to accept President Johnson's plan for reconstruction?

3. Summarize the provisions of the constitutions of 1865 and 1868. Why were some of the provisions of the Constitution of 1868 never carried out?

4. Give an account of the way in which the Democrats regained control of the state.

### *Recalling Significant Details*

1. How did the Negroes prove their loyalty to South Carolina during the Confederate War?

2. What did South Carolina do in order to meet the requirements for statehood? What requirement did Congress set up that South Carolina refused to accept?

3. What were the Reconstruction Acts?  
4. How were the Republicans able to stay in power?

5. Who was the "Robber Governor"? Why was he given this name?

6. Why did the Democrats consider endorsing Chamberlain for governor? Why did they decide not to do so?

7. What was the "Wallace House"?

### *Pronouncing Words*

Can you pronounce all the names in this chapter? The pronunciation given below may help you.

Magrath    muh graw'

### *Something Interesting to Do*

1. Try to find out what was happening in your town or locality during Reconstruction.

2. Write a story about a boy or girl who lived in Reconstruction times and whose father took part in the Red Shirt Campaign of 1876.