



LITTLE GREENBRIER SCHOOL

During the frontier period, most children did not attend school but instead learned from their parents at home. After statehood in 1796, many communities built one-room schoolhouses like the Little Greenbrier school shown in the painting. Some were subscription schools, like the one Sam Houston taught in near Maryville. In subscription schools, parents paid the teacher's salary in cash or goods, such as chickens, flour, or firewood. Most students only attended school when they were not needed to work at home. Wealthy families often sent their children to private academies, like the Salem Academy in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Schools were segregated and black children had few opportunities to attend school until after the Civil War.

What Do You See?

Most schools had only one room. Students sat in groups by grade level, and the teacher taught one grade at a time. Students studied arithmetic, reading, English grammar, and spelling.

Think More About It!

- 1.) How do you think students got to school each day?
- 2.) What would be the advantage of hearing lessons for other grades?
- 3.) What type of work were children doing when not in school?

Journal It!

How were one room schools different from schools today? How were they similar?



I attended subscription schools, my parents paid \$1 per month... During my last school days I attended public school run by the county about 2 mo[nths]. I went to school about six months in all.

—SAMUEL SCHRADER, JEFFERSON COUNTY

*Above: Church and School House, Little Greenbrier, Tenn., postcard, Edouard Exline
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library*

*Front, image: Little Greenbrier School
J. M. Stewart, oil on canvas, 2005
Courtesy of the artist. © 2005 J. M. Stewart, Gatlinburg*



TOOL BOX USED BY LENOIR SLAVE, C. 1855

The head slave carpenter on **William Ballard Lenoir's** plantation used this handmade toolbox. The Lenoir's plantation is now Lenoir City. Many slaves lived on plantations and farms; however, in East Tennessee, the largest number of slaves lived and worked in towns.

What Do You See?

The corners of the box were reinforced with metal brackets. Why do you think the reinforcements were needed?

Think More About It!

- 1.) What jobs might slaves have performed in towns?
- 2.) What additional jobs would slaves have performed on the farm?
- 3.) What restrictions do you think were placed on slaves in East Tennessee?

Journal It!

Slaves who had special skills like carpentry or cooking were often in demand and brought higher prices when sold. What advantages and disadvantages did having a special skill create for a slave?



However mild slaves may be treated, they live in dread of these occurrences which separate them forever.

—EZEKIEL BIRDSEYE,
ON WITNESSING THE SALE AND SEPARATION
OF A COCKE COUNTY FAMILY UPON THE
DEATH OF THEIR MASTER, JUNE 1841

GLOSSARY

William Ballard Lenoir—In 1810, William Ballard Lenoir settled a plot of land in Tennessee, near modern-day Lenoir City. Lenoir was active in business and politics. He served in the state legislature from 1815-1817. In addition to the plantation, Lenoir also built and operated a flour mill and cotton mill using slave labor.

Slavery is contrary to the fundamental principles of religion, and incompatible with a republican form of government... he who holds a fellow creature in involuntary servitude... is not entitled to the confidence of a free people.

—ELIHU EMBREE, JONESBOROUGH, 1820

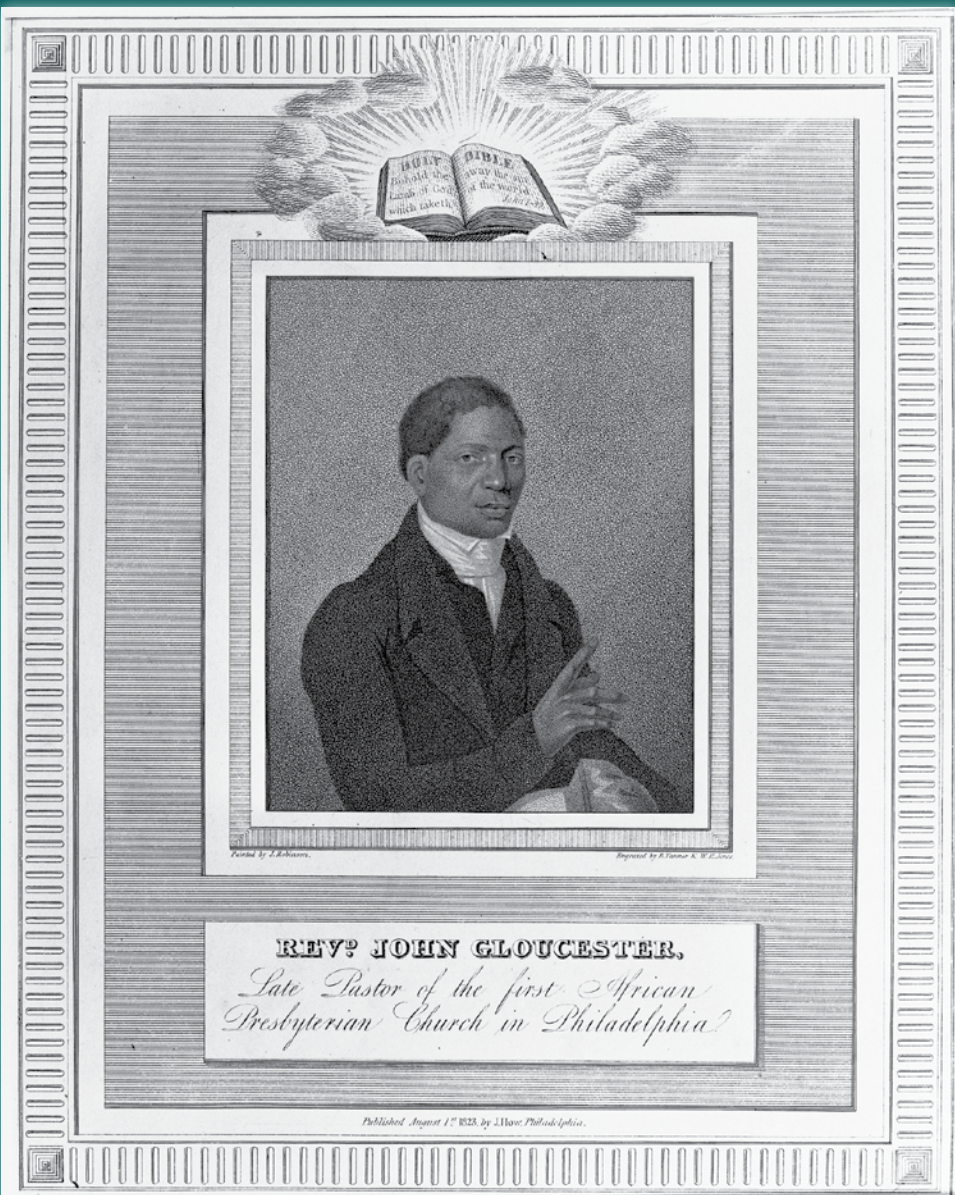
Elihu Embree was a successful Quaker business man from north-east Tennessee. In 1820, he began publishing the nation's first newspaper dedicated to abolishing slavery.



Above: Basket made by slave George Bowman, 1860–1890
Loaned by Charles and Theresa Faulkner

Front, artifact: Toolbox used by a Lenoir slave, c. 1855
Loaned by Kathleen Sevier Kavanagh Benson and Mabry Benson Lang

Front, image: *Am I Not a Man and a Brother?* engraving, 1859
Courtesy of Manuscript, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations



REVEREND JOHN “JACK” GLOUCESTER (1776-1822)

In 1806, Presbyterian minister **Gideon Blackburn** manumitted, or freed, a slave preacher named “Jack.” Upon gaining his freedom, Jack changed his name to John Gloucester. Blackburn and other local ministers sponsored Gloucester’s studies at Greeneville College. He was the first African American known to study there. Freed slaves also studied at Maryville College and other Presbyterian schools in the region. After completing his studies, Gloucester and his family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he helped found the first African Presbyterian Church in 1807.

What Do You See?

How is Reverend Gloucester dressed? Do you think the picture shows Gloucester as a slave, student, or minister? Why?

Think More About It!

- 1.) Why do you think Gloucester changed his name after being freed?
- 2.) In what region of Tennessee can you find Maryville and Greeneville?
- 3.) Subtract 1776 from 1809. How old was John Gloucester when he finished college?

Journal It!

Imagine that you are Gloucester. Write a short journal entry describing your first day of class at Greeneville College.

GLOSSARY

Reverend Gideon Blackburn—Reverend Blackburn was a Presbyterian minister, missionary to the Cherokee, and supporter of manumission before the Civil War.

Manumission—Act of an owner freeing individual slaves

Abolition—Act of ending the practice of slavery

Divine providence has helped a Negro man named Jack... with uncommon talents... He hath acquired a tolerable good education by which he may be qualified in moralizing and Christianizing his unfortunate black brethern [now in slavery].

—GIDEON BLACKBURN'S PETITION TO THE
TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE TO FREE THE SLAVE "JACK," 1806



Above: *Am I Not a Man and a Brother?* engraving, 1859
Courtesy of Manuscript, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

Front, image: Reverend John Gloucester, 1823
Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia



All such as can be identified as having been engaged in bridge burning are to be tried summarily by drum-head court martial, and, if found guilty, executed on the spot by hanging.

—CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF WAR
JUDAH P. BENJAMIN, NOVEMBER 21, 1861

“BRIDGE BURNER” FLAG, C. 1861

In November 1861, several East Tennessee Unionists took part in a plan to burn nine railroad bridges in preparation for a planned Union advance into East Tennessee. The plan failed, and five of the six men captured after burning the Lick Creek Bridge in Greene County were tried and hanged in Knoxville. One of these men was Christopher Alexander Haun. His body was shipped home to Greeneville. The coffin was covered by this United States flag.

What Do You See?

Notice how little of the flag is left. This is because C. A. Haun's wife cut stars and squares from the flag over the years for men to pin to their coats in memory of her husband and the other “Bridge Burners.”

Think More About It!

- 1.) Why were the railroad bridges important during the Civil War?
- 2.) Why would destroying the bridges be an important goal for the Union Army?

Journal It!

Imagine that you are Christopher Haun. You are trying to convince your friend and neighbor to help you destroy the Lick Creek Bridge. What would you say to him? What reasons would you give to convince him to help?

GLOSSARY

Drum-Head Court Martial—Drum-head court martial is a military court held in the field during a military engagement in order to hear urgent charges of offences committed in action.



David Fry took the oaths. He did it by having those who took it put their hand on a U.S. flag and swear to the Stars and Stripes to do anything pressed upon them that night to do.

—JOHN McDANIELS, DECEMBER 1861



Above: Railroad bridge at Strawberry Plains
George N. Barnard (Union photographer headquartered at Nashville), c. 1864
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Left: *A Thrilling Scene in East Tennessee—Colonel Fry and the Union Men Swearing by the Flag* from *Harper's Weekly*, March 29, 1862
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Front, artifact: “Bridge Burner” flag, c. 1861
East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection, gift of Rosemary H. Britton in memory of her husband, James A. Britton, 1st Sergeant Service Company, 423rd C.I.R., 106th Infantry Division, United States Army, WWII, who was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and held captive in Germany until liberated in April 1945. Conservation funded by gifts from Chip Stewart and an anonymous source



Liberty & Union
Now and Forever, One and Inseperable

U.S. PRESENTATION FLAG GIVEN TO SUSAN BROWNLOW SAWYERS BY THE LADIES OF PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 13, 1862

The flag was presented to **Susan B. Sawyers**, the daughter of **William G. Brownlow**, who was an important Unionist during the Civil War. A group of ladies in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, presented the flag to Mrs. Sawyers in honor of her protection of the United States flag at the Brownlow home in Knoxville. Confederates had demanded she take the flag down, but she refused and instead held the soldiers at gunpoint.

What Do You See?

The flag was especially designed as a gift for Mrs. Sawyers. How is it different from an official United States flag?

Think More About It!

- 1.) Why was the flag given to Mrs. Sawyers?
- 2.) Why do you think the eagle was used as a symbol in the flag?

Journal It!

Write a newspaper article about how Mrs. Sawyers refused to take down the flag at the Brownlow home. Describe what you think Mrs. Sawyers said to the soldiers. What do you think they said back to her?

GLOSSARY

William (Parson) Ganaway Brownlow—William Brownlow, an important Unionist leader from East Tennessee, was a Methodist circuit-riding minister, newspaper editor, and politician. Brownlow became governor of the state of Tennessee after the Civil War.



**When I shall have made up
my mind to go to hell, I will
cut my throat, and go direct,
and not travel by way of the
Southern Confederacy.**

—REVEREND WILLIAM G.
“PARSON” BROWNLOW,
APRIL 22, 1861

Susan Brownlow Sawyers—William Brownlow’s daughter Susan Sawyers became a Union heroine after the magazine *Harper’s Weekly* reported that she held off a mob of secessionists (Confederates) who demanded that she take down a Union flag that flew over their Knoxville home.



Above: *Miss Martha [Susan] Brownlow: The Heroine of Tennessee*, engraving, Barclay & Co., Philadelphia, 1863

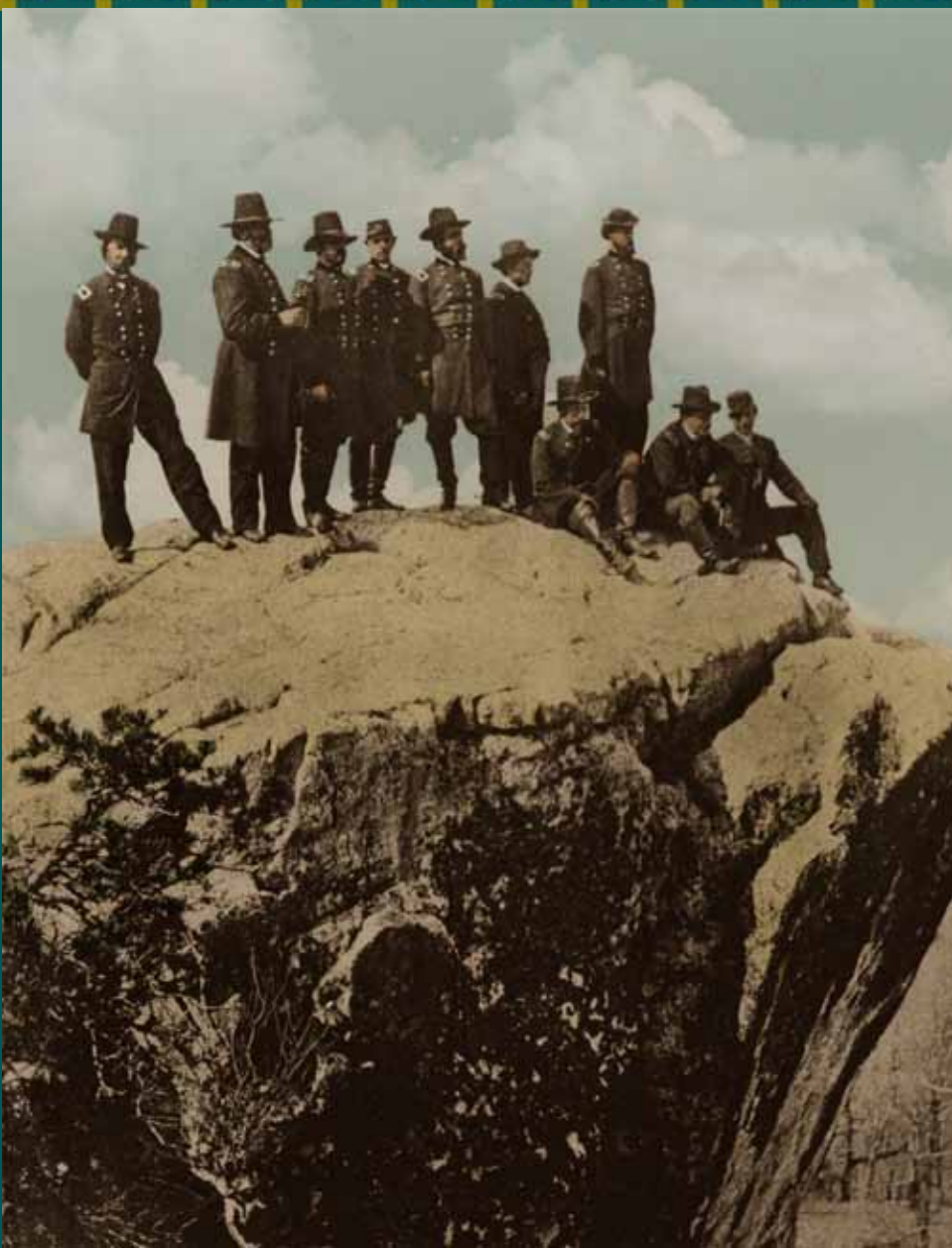
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Front, artifact: U.S. flag presented to Susan Brownlow Sawyers by the Ladies of Philadelphia, June 13, 1862

East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection, gift Charles G. Boynton and Daniel Boynton Benscoter, Susan Brownlow Sawyer’s grandsons. Conservation made possible by a grant from the Frank and Virginia Rogers Foundation

Left: Honorable William G. Brownlow

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Brady-Handy Photograph Collection



UNION GENERAL GEORGE THOMAS AND OTHERS ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, CHATTANOOGA, 1863

These Union officers are posing for a photograph on top of **Lookout Mountain** in **Chattanooga**. General **Ulysses S. Grant** commanded the Union Army which captured the mountain in November of 1863. Later in the same month, Union forces defeated the Confederates at **Fort Sanders** in Knoxville. Following these battles the Confederate Army spent the winter retreating south to Georgia and north to Virginia.

What Do You See?

What type of clothes are the men wearing? All of these men are wearing officers' uniforms. How would the uniforms of regular soldiers be similar or different from the officers?

Think More About It!

- 1.) Why did troops on top of a mountain have an advantage when attacked by troops below?
- 2.) Why would General Grant want to capture this mountain for the Union?
- 3.) Why do you think the men posed for the photograph?

Journal It!

What do you think the officers were thinking as the photograph was taken?

GLOSSARY

Lookout Mountain—The Battle of Lookout Mountain was fought on November 24, 1863, on this mountain ridge overlooking Chattanooga.

Chattanooga, Tennessee—Chattanooga is the fourth-largest city in Tennessee (after Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville). The city is located in Hamilton County, just above the Georgia border and along a major bend of the Tennessee River.

Ulysses S. Grant—U.S. Grant was general of the Union Army during the Civil War. Grant rose to national leadership after a series of successful victories over the Confederate armies in Tennessee (Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, and Chattanooga). He was elected president in 1868 and served two terms.

Fort Sanders—Today, Fort Sanders Hospital is located close to the original location of Knoxville's most famous Civil War fort. The Union fort was the scene of a fierce battle on November 29, 1863. The 3,000 Confederates were not prepared for the fort's defenses, including a deep trench and spider web of telegraph wire strung between tree stumps. The Confederates suffered 813 casualties, while the Union defenders only lost 13 men.

If we can hold Chattanooga and East Tennessee, I think the Rebellion must dwindle and die.

Abraham Lincoln

TO MAJOR GENERAL ROSECRANS, OCTOBER 4, 1863

Front, image: *Union General George Thomas and Others on Lookout Mountain 1863, Chattanooga, Tennessee*

Courtesy of Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library



CYNTHIA DUNN, c. 1863

Cynthia Dunn was a member of an all-female unit of Union **home guards** in Blount County in 1863. Home guards were volunteer groups of citizens, men or women, that protected their communities, delivered messages, and spied on the enemy during the war. Another company of young Confederate women organized a volunteer cavalry unit called the Rhea County Spartans.

What Do You See?

Many of the women who formed the home guard units were young with no family to take care of, so they could commit their time and efforts to protecting their communities.

Think More About It!

- 1.) What other jobs did women take over during the Civil War?
- 2.) What skills did members of the home guard need in order to be successful?

Journal It!

Imagine you are a woman during the Civil War. Write a paragraph describing the things you could do to support the war effort.

Standards: 5.6, 8.75

GLOSSARY

Bushwhackers and Guerillas—The mountains and hills of East Tennessee were a haven for bands of guerillas and bushwhackers who ranged the countryside, terrorizing families and taking what they wanted. Among the notorious were “Tinker” Dave Beaty in Fentress County, Champ Ferguson on the Cumberland Plateau, and George Kirk of Kirk’s Raiders on the Tennessee–North Carolina border. The chaos of war was often an excuse to rob and settle old feuds.

Guerillas—Small groups of civilian fighters who act independently of the regular military force.

Bushwhackers—Civil War term for guerillas who ambushed their enemies.

I feel uneasy to stay by myself when there are so many robbers about. I will put my trust in God... Oh how I long for the cruel war to close, that we may have peace and quiet once more.

—TERESA ANN LANNING McCOWN,
SEVIER COUNTY, OCTOBER 16, 1864

It makes me tremble to read how Brownlow talks about the Rebels. He is the editor of the “Knoxville Whig.” He excites the people to murder and pillage... Oh, how much bloodshed, murder, thefts, etc. are occasioned by this war! May God be our help!

—ELISA BOLI BUFFAT,
KNOX COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1864

Front, image: Cynthia Dunn, Blount County, c. 1863
Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library and Archives



ALFRED GREEN'S SHIRT, C. 1863

Alfred Green did not want to fight for either side during the Civil War. To avoid the Confederate draft, Green hid in the mountains near his home. In the summer of 1863, Green returned home to visit his wife and new baby. Confederate sympathizers discovered Green was home. Three men went to arrest Green for evading the Confederate draft. As they approached, Green grabbed his rifle and ran for a nearby shed. The men fired, killing Green before he could reach safety.

What Do You See?

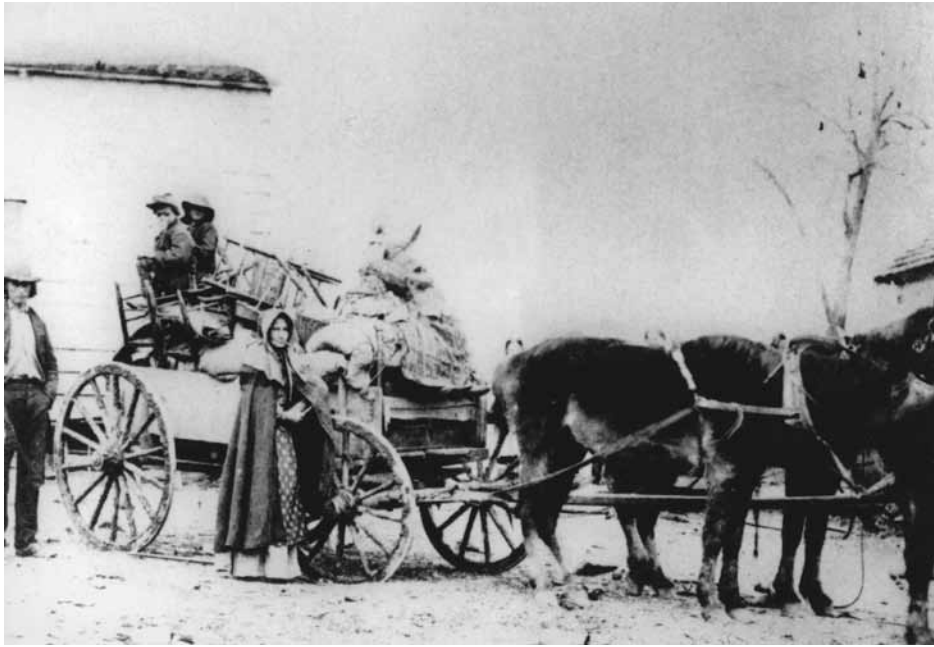
Do you see any clues to the story on Green's shirt? There are a couple of holes in the shoulder of the shirt and blood stains on the shirttail.

Think More About It!

- 1.) Did you have to be a soldier to suffer during the Civil War? Explain.
- 2.) What does the word *homefront* mean?

Journal It!

Imagine you are Alfred Green's 14-year old son. Write a diary entry to talk about your thoughts and fears, now that your father is gone and you have to take care of the family.



By the sweat of our brows we had provided bread for another year, but that supply... was given up to the Union army... Hundreds of families, heretofore blessed with an abundance... have been reduced to almost absolute beggary.

—REVEREND NATHANIEL G. TAYLOR, FEBRUARY 1864

Above: A refugee family arriving in Nashville direct from the war front in southern Tennessee

Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library and Archives

Front, artifact: Shirt of Alfred Greene, c. 1863

Loaned by Ben Greene



CONGRESSIONAL DESK USED BY HORACE MAYNARD IN THE 35TH-37TH CONGRESSES OF THE UNITED STATES (1857-1863)

Horace Maynard was a United States congressman from East Tennessee. Maynard, like many East Tennesseans, was against Tennessee's secession from the Union. After the Confederate Army took control of East Tennessee, Representative Maynard's family was forced to flee the state, and his property was taken by the Confederates. He kept his position in the United States Congress, even though Tennessee was a Confederate state. As a result, Tennessee was represented in both the United States and Confederate legislatures.

What Do You See?

When the United States Capitol building was redecorated, Representative Maynard purchased his desk and sent it home to Knoxville. Look at all the details. Are there any shapes you recognize? Imagine what the room, or chambers, must have looked like.

Think More About It!

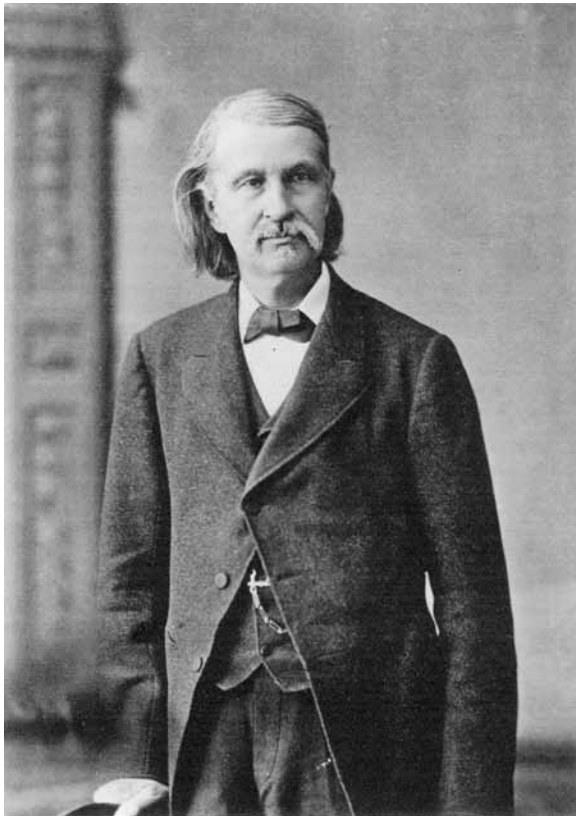
- 1.) What is the word we use when we talk about the Confederate states separating from the United States in the Civil War?
- 2.) What difficulties did Maynard and his family have because he remained loyal to the Union?

Journal It!

Describe the feelings the Maynard family had when the Confederate Army took their property and made them move from their home. Would these feelings be easy to get over after the war ended? Why or why not?

GLOSSARY

Horace Maynard—Knox County politician Horace Maynard served as attorney general of Tennessee, U.S. representative in Congress, and as U.S. postmaster general. He remained loyal to the Union when Tennessee seceded and kept his seat in the United States Congress until 1863. Union County leaders named their county seat Maynardville in his honor.



The uprising of the few against the many; the assertion of the rights of property in disregard of personal rights.

—HORACE MAYNARD'S ANTI-SECESSION SPEECH,
KNOXVILLE, 1863

Left: Horace Maynard, photograph by Knaffl & Brothers, c. 1880
Courtesy of Elizabeth Lindsay King

Front, artifact: Congressional desk used by Horace Maynard in the 35th-37th Congresses of the United States
East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection, gift of Elizabeth Lindsay King, great-granddaughter of Horace Maynard



When organized we will have one of the finest Regiments that has ever went from East Tennessee and should opportunity offer upon the battlefield, I think we will win for ourselves undying laurels, and gain a glory and renown equal to any secured by Tennessee's son.

—HANNIBAL PAYNE TO “JENNIE,”
RHEA COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 1861

26TH TENNESSEE REGIMENT, CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, BATTLE FLAG, 1864

This battle flag is the 26th Tennessee Infantry Regiment's fourth flag. Earlier battle flags were captured or too worn to use. Of the 1,014 original men who went to war under the 26th Infantry's flag in 1861, only 72 were alive when the South surrendered in 1865. The **regiment** was composed of men from all over East Tennessee, but mostly from Rhea, Meigs, and Roane counties.

What do you see?

Look closely. The battle names Missionary Ridge, **Chickamauga**, **Fort Donelson**, and **Battle of Murfreesboro** are printed on the white stripes. These are four of the major battles the regiment served in.

Think More About It!

- 1.) Subtract 72 from 1,014. How many of the original men from this regiment died in the Civil War?
- 2.) Why is this flag so worn and faded?

Journal It!

Describe how a Civil War battle would sound, smell, and look. What are the soldiers doing in the battle? Do they stay in their groups? Write about what role you think the battle flag played and why it would be important to keep it flying high.

GLOSSARY

Regiment—During the Civil War, a regiment was a military unit composed of 10 companies. A company was made up of around 100 men from the local community. Therefore, a regiment was about 1,000 men.

Battle of Fort Donelson (February 14-16, 1862)—The Union Army, under the command of General U.S. Grant, defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Fort Donelson along the Cumberland River near the Tennessee and Kentucky state lines in West Tennessee. Due to its strategic location close to the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, the defeat of Fort Donelson forced the South to give up southern Kentucky and much of Middle and West Tennessee.

Battle of Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863)—The Battle of Chickamauga happened because both armies wanted to control the important railroad town of Chattanooga. The Confederate Army won the battle of Chickamauga in North Georgia, just south of Chattanooga. The Union Army was pushed back into the city and began defending themselves against Confederate attacks from the surrounding mountains. These attacks were stopped by the Union success in the Battle of Chattanooga on November 24-25, 1863.

Battle of Murfreesboro, also known as the Battle of Stone's River (December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863)—A Confederate retreat from the battlefield left the Union Army as the winners of the Battle of Murfreesboro or Stone's River as it is also known.

Front, artifact: 26th Tennessee Regiment, Confederate States of America, battle flag, 1864

East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection, gift of R. Stewart Lillard

“ANDREW JOHNSON TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE IN THE SMALL PARLOR OF THE KIRKWOOD HOUSE, WASHINGTON, 1865”

Vice President **Andrew Johnson** was awakened on the morning of April 15, 1865, with the news that President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. Within hours, he was sworn in as the new president. Lincoln selected Johnson as his vice-president because Johnson was a Southerner and a unionist. As president, Johnson **pardoned** most ex-Confederates who swore an oath of loyalty to the United States. This action angered many people, including members of Congress who would later **impeach** Johnson. After completing his term as president, Johnson returned to his home in Greeneville, Tennessee.

What Do You See?

The vice-president lived in the Kirkwood Hotel, so he took the oath of office in a hotel parlor. Presidents are normally sworn in during a large, public ceremony called an inauguration. Why was Johnson's ceremony different?

Think More About It!

- 1.) What East Tennessee town was Andrew Johnson from?
- 2.) Why do you think that many people disagreed with Johnson's plan to pardon ex-Confederates?

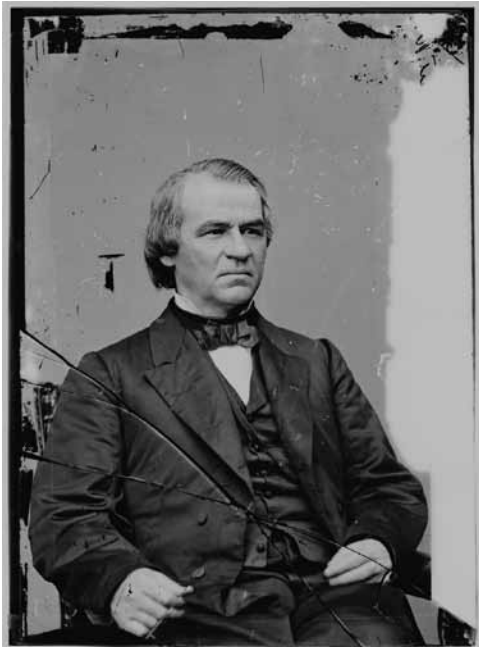
Journal It!

What do you think Andrew Johnson was thinking as he took the oath of office? Write a paragraph describing his thoughts.



GLOSSARY

Andrew Johnson—Greeneville, Tennessee, was the home of the 17th President, Andrew Johnson. President Johnson was the vice-president during Abraham Lincoln's second term and became president when Lincoln was assassinated. He was also the first president to be impeached (although he was not removed from office).



Impeach—To charge the holder of a public office with misconduct

Pardon—To forgive an offense

I have been almost overwhelmed by the announcement of the sad event which has so recently occurred. I feel incompetent to perform the duties so important and responsible as those which have been so unexpectedly thrown upon me.

—PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON ON LINCOLN'S DEATH,
APRIL 15, 1865

Left: Honorable Andrew Johnson, c. 1875
Courtesy of Library of Congress, Brady-Handy Photograph Collection

Front, image: *Andrew Johnson Taking the Oath of Office in the Small Parlor of the Kirkwood House [Hotel], Washington, D. C. [April 15, 1865]*
Engraving from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, January 6, 1866
Courtesy of the Library of Congress



I asked... what particular section of the country it would be advisable for me to locate my business in. Without hesitation he told me, "Knoxville, Tenn." As there was more future and more room for development within a radius of 50 miles than in any section of the South.

—WILLIAM OLIVER, KNOXVILLE BUSINESSMAN, 1909

CARPETBAG, MID-1800S

East Tennessee was devastated by the Civil War. Many lives were lost and a great deal of property was taken or destroyed. Personal disputes between former Confederates and unionists led to continued violence in many communities. Business leaders promoted Northern investment in the region as a solution to the problems. However, some Southerners resented the Northern investors and the changes their presence in the South created. The negative term “**carpetbagger**” was used to describe the Northern investors, because many of them carried their belongings in a carpetbag.

What Do You See?

Look closely at the carpetbag. The luggage looks similar to a duffel bag and was made out of carpet like you would use on the floor. The carpet was a strong and inexpensive material to use for the bags.

Think More About It!

- 1.) What types of businesses do you think the “carpetbaggers” invested in and built?
- 2.) Did East Tennessee have a lot of natural resources for them to develop?

Journal It!

Create an advertisement for a newspaper that would convince Northern investors to start a business in East Tennessee after the Civil War.

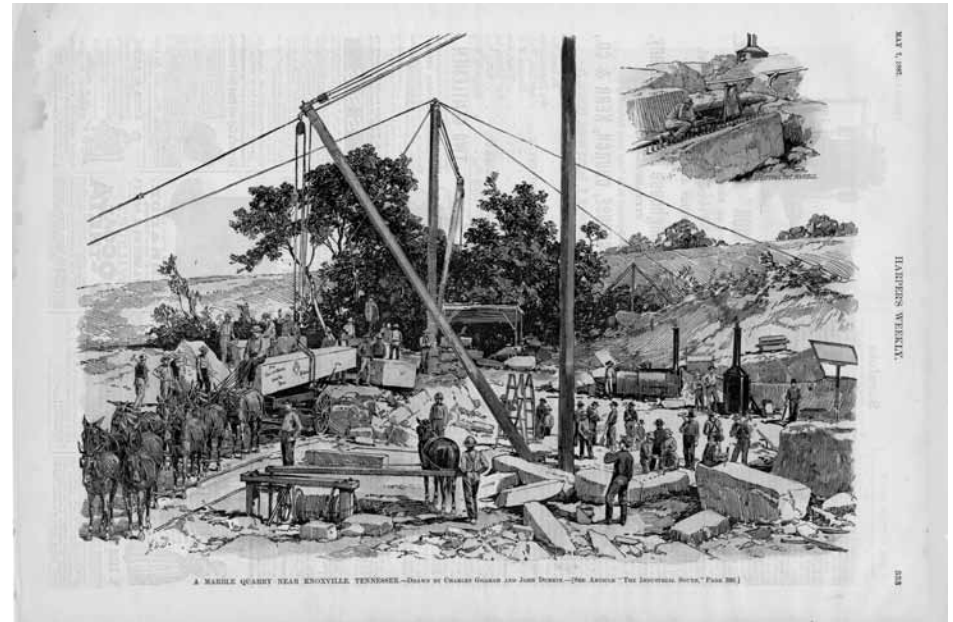
GLOSSARY

Carpetbaggers—Northerners who came South after the Civil War to start businesses or to work for organizations such as the Freedmen's Bureau.

Scalawags—White Southerners who supported the Republican Party of Lincoln and Republican views on Reconstruction in the South.

Freedmen's Bureau—Organization created by Congress in 1865 to help freed slaves and poor whites in the South. The Freedmen's Bureau provided housing, food, medical services, and legal aid. One of the bureau's most important tasks was the creation of school for former slaves.

Reconstruction—Period of reorganizing and rebuilding the former Confederate states after the Civil War



Left: *A Marble Quarry Near Knoxville, Tennessee, from Harper's Weekly, May 7, 1887*
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Front, artifact: Carpetbag, descended in the Fain family of Rogersville, mid-1800s
East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection, gift of John N. Fain, Sr.



KU KLUX KLAN HOOD AND ROBE C. 1920

In 1866, six former Confederate officers met in Giles County, Tennessee, and formed a secret organization. When debating the name for their new organization, the group wanted to include the Greek word for circle, *kuklos*, and thus it became the Ku Klux Klan. The Ku Klux Klan opposed voting rights for African Americans and used violence and intimidation against African Americans and white Republicans. A report conducted by the state of Tennessee in 1868 estimated that the Ku Klux Klan murdered one person per day over a six-month period in that year.

What Do You See?

The robe has a Ku Klux Klan emblem on the left chest and a hand-sewn #64 on the back.

Think More About It!

- 1.) Why do you think the Klansmen wore robes and hoods?
- 2.) Why were the robes and hoods white?

Journal It!

Why do you think museums preserve artifacts that deal with painful aspects of our nation's history?



The 1915 film *Birth of a Nation* portrayed klansmen as heroes and launched a rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan. The 20th century Ku Klux Klan broadened its message of hate to include not only African Americans but also Jews, Catholics, and foreigners. By 1925, Klan membership was estimated at three to eight million nationwide.

[The Ku Klux Klan] came to my shop and took Tom Galloway away. He has not been seen since that time. They went to Old Sister Wallace's house, took her out, whipped her, and abused her very badly, and broke three of her ribs, and shot at her husband twice, as he was making his escape.

—ANDERSON CHEATHAM, DESCRIBING KLAN ACTIVITY IN
MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AUGUST 3, 1868

Left: Advertisement for a "K. K. K. K. Celebration," 1925
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Front, image: Ku Klux Klan hood and robe, c. 1920
East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection