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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican Party candidate to become President of the United States, but he was a minority president. He received less than fifty percent of the popular vote in the November 1860 election. However, he had more popular votes than the other three candidates in the four-man race. In December, 1860 when the electoral vote was cast he received the required constitutional majority.

South Carolina threatened to leave the Union if Lincoln won the election. In December, 1860 they seceded from the Union. When Lincoln was elected president in November, 1860, there were thirty-three states in the Union, and Kansas was about to join making thirty-four. But, on March 4, 1861 when Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States, with military sharpshooters on roof tops in Washington D. C. to protect him, only twenty-seven states remained in the Union. Seven states led by South Carolina had seceded from the Union and formed what they claimed was a new country -- the Confederate States of America.

By Independence Day, 1861, four more states had left the Union and joined the Confederate States of America; including our most populous state, the "Mother of Presidents" Virginia. Seven of the fifteen men who had led our nation as president were born in Virginia; among them were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. As Lincoln gazed from the nation's capital across the Potomac River into Virginia he could see Rebel flags at Arlington Heights.

Texas was also among the eleven states that left the Union. Texas gained its independence from Mexico following a brief but bitter struggle in 1836 under the leadership of Sam Houston. In 1845 Texas joined the Union as our twenty-eight state. On February 1, 1861, the 25th anniversary of Texas Independence from Mexico, Governor Sam Houston who fought to convince Texans to remain in the Union, was forced from office, and Texas joined the Confederate States of America.

Sam Houston warned Texans: "Let me tell you what is coming . . . Your fathers and husbands, your sons and brothers, will be herded at the point of the bayonet . . . You may, after the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, as a bare possibility, win Southern independence . . . But I doubt it. I tell you that, while I believe with you in the doctrine of States Rights, the North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction . . . they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche."

Wall Street attorney George Templeton Strong wrote, "All the indications are that this treasonable inflammation -- secessionitis-- keeps on making progress week by week."

The man who eloped with the daughter of President Zachary Taylor, only to have her die three months later, was helping his second wife Varina in the garden of Brienfield, their plantation near Vicksburg, Mississippi on February 10, 1861 when he received word that he had been elected president of the provisional Government of the Confederate States of America.

Jefferson Davis, a former United States Senator, and former United States Secretary of War would become president almost three weeks before Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States. Lincoln's goal was to stop disunion.

Holidays and other special days http://suvcw.org/ftp/PI_handbook.pdf

National, Federal and Special holidays – Days the Flag should be Flown

Patriots Day – Third Monday in April

First observed in 1894 – Celebrated today in Maine, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin

Patriots Day commemorates the battle of Lexington and Concord, which were fought on April 19, 1775.

Part of the history of this famous revolutionary battle was the midnight ride of Paul Revere and William

Dawes. The Sons of the American Revolution in Massachusetts were largely responsible for the official recognition of the event. Today only a few states recognize the holiday, however, its celebrations are known by many. Besides several reenactments of the famous midnight ride, there are other festivities including professional baseball games and the running of the Boston Marathon.