



# 15.2 - The Abolitionists

---

THIS SET OF NOTES IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN A FORMAT THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WRITE DOWN THESE NOTES.

THEY ARE SIMPLY HERE FOR YOU TO REVIEW IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL REVIEW MATERIAL.

# I. The Start

# A. The Early Movement

---

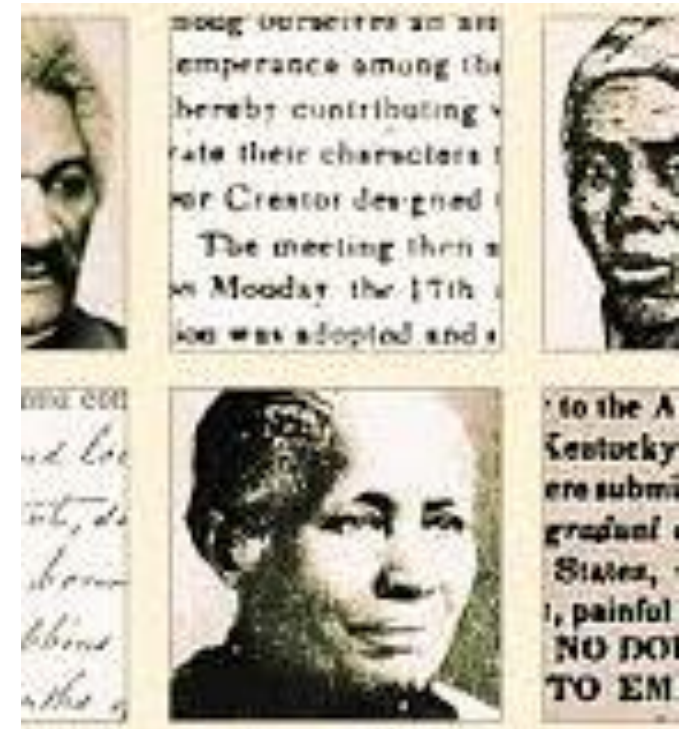
1. Abolitionist = person who sought the end of slavery in the US in the early 1800s

- Some as early as before the Revolution
- Early antislavery societies believed it had to end gradually

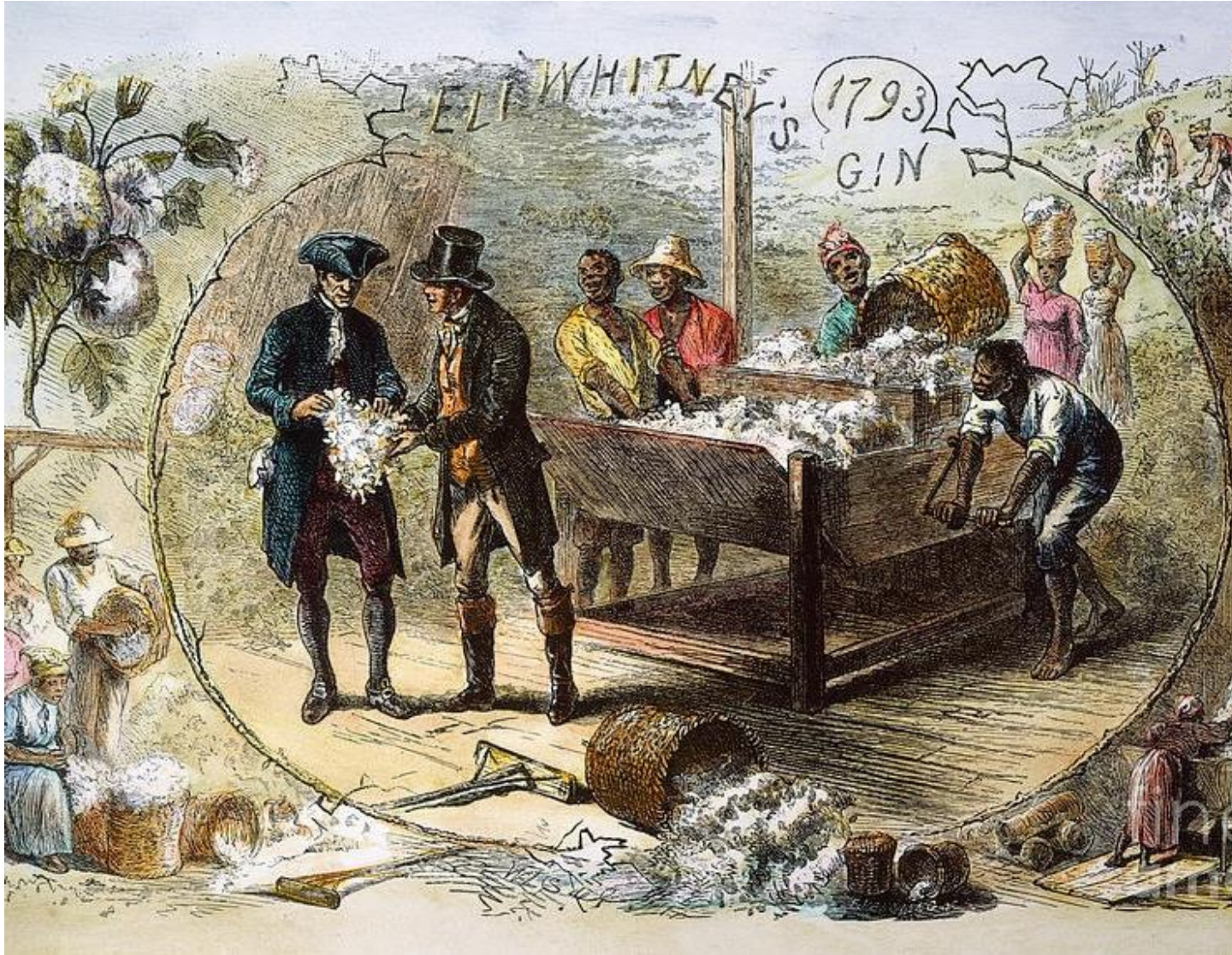
➤ Purpose = to give the South's economy time to adjust

2. The Constitutional Convention, 1787

- Slavery was debated
- Compromise = state-by-state decision







### 3. By region – early 1800s

- North = officially ended by
- South = practice
  - Rise of the Cotton Kingdom = increased use of slave labor



---

#### 4. The Reform Movement – early to mid-1800s

- Gave new life to anti-slavery cause
- Growing number of Americans were coming to believe slavery was wrong and should end

#### 5. Quaker Faith

- Many led the anti-slavery movement
- Benjamin Lundy
  - Founded the *Genius of Universal Emancipation* newspaper in Ohio, 1821



THE GAMBIA

## B. The Colonization Plan

1. Many white northerners still supported slavery
2. Some white abolitionists worried about the effect free African Americans would have on society
3. 1816, American Colonization Society formed
  - Planned to send free African Americans out of the country
    - Some went to West Africa where the society acquired land
    - First settlers arrived in Liberia ("place of freedom") in 1822
    - 1847, Liberia declared independent republic
    - Resettled ~10,000 people by the mid-1800s
    - Not all African Americans wanted to go

ATLANTIC OCEAN



# II. The Movement Builds Strength



## A. White abolitionist making the case against slavery

---

### 1. William Lloyd Garrison

- 1831, started a newspaper called The Liberator
- First white abolitionist to call for an immediate end to slavery
- Attracted enough followers to start the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832
  - Over 1,000 local branches by 1838





---

## 2. Sarah and Angelina Grimké

- Abolitionist sisters from a SC slaveholding family
- 1832, moved to Philadelphia
  - Here they spoke out for abolition and women's rights
- Asked Mother for inheritance early (enslaved people) once they received these people they freed them
- 1839, wrote a book with Angelina's husband (Theodore Weld)
  - *American Slavery As It Is*
  - First-hand tellings of life under slavery
  - One of the most powerful abolitionist publications of its time



---

### 3. Harriet Beecher Stowe

- Wrote the novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in 1852
  - Had a MAJOR impact in public opinion
  - Portrayed slavery as a cruel and brutal system
  - Some opposed the book and its message – BANNED in the South



## B. African American Abolitionist

---

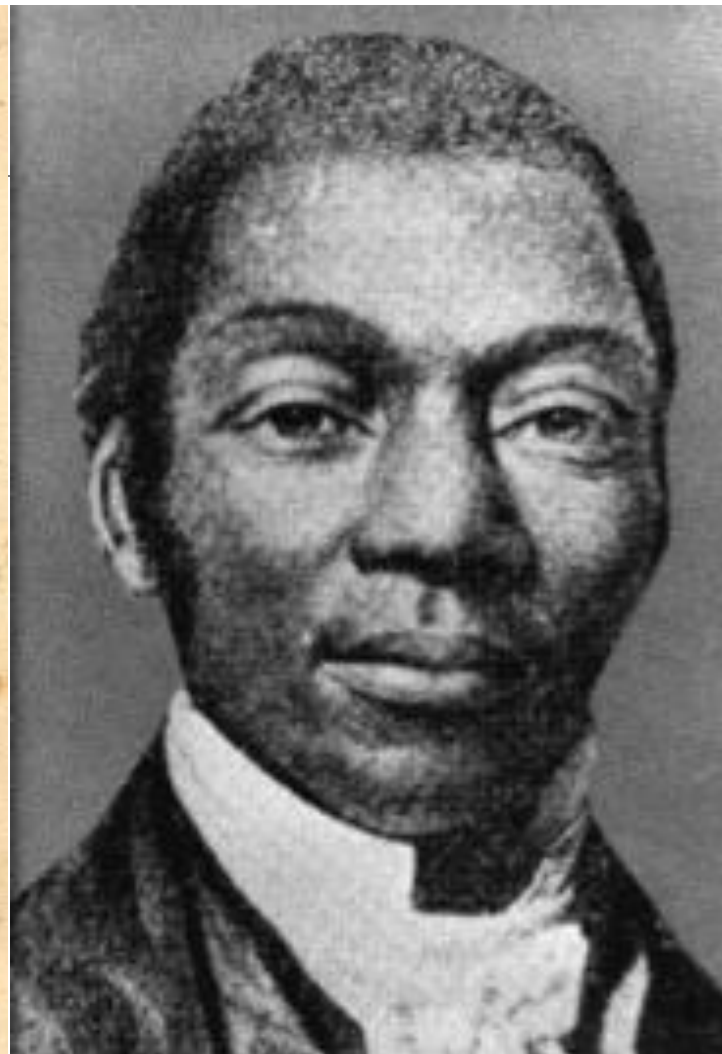
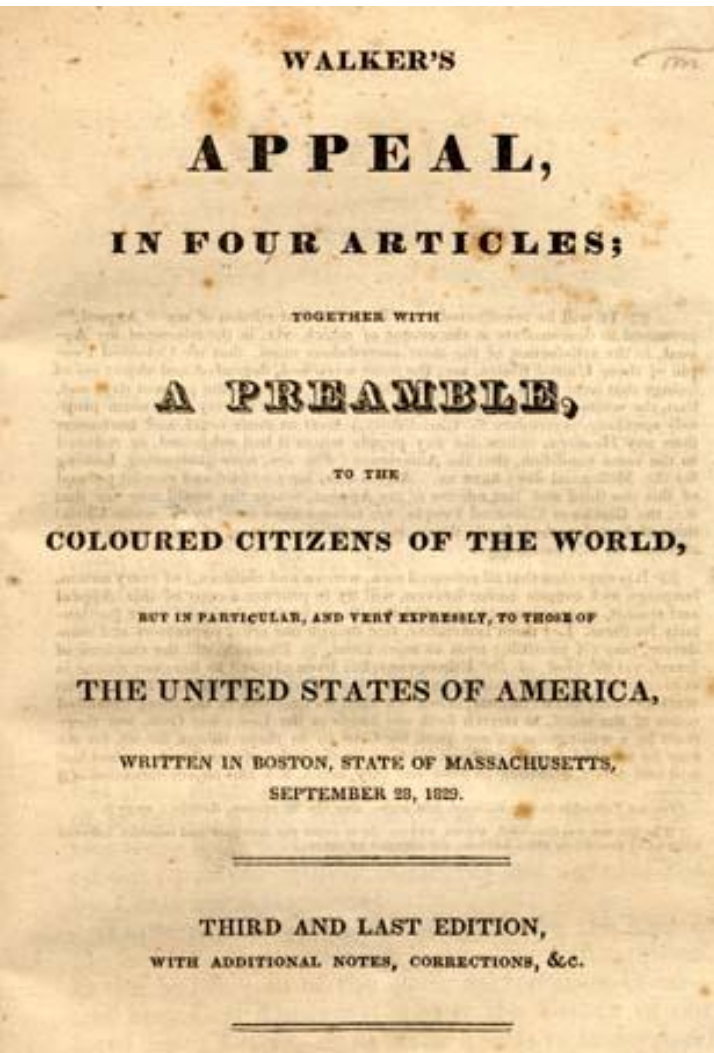
### 1. Anti-Slavery Society

- Organized and led by free African Americans
- They subscribed to *The Liberator*
- Conducted their own writing and publishing

### 2. Samuel Cornish and John Russwurm

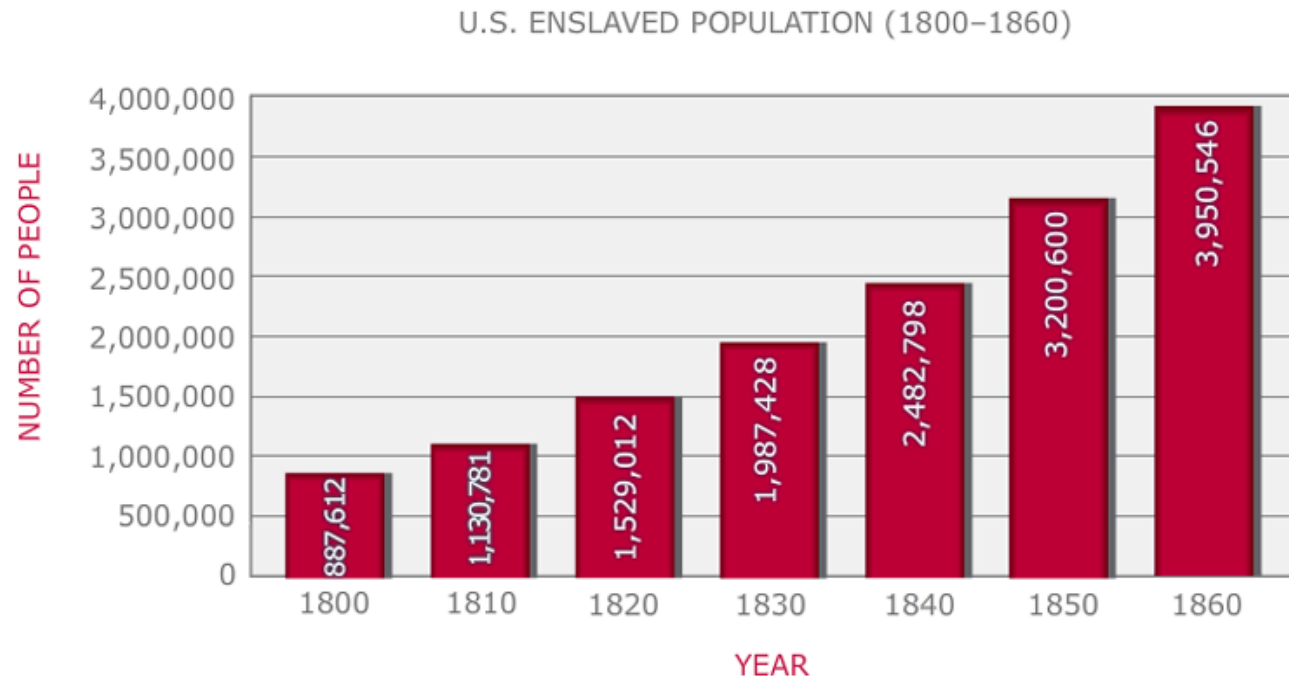
- Started the country's first African American newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*





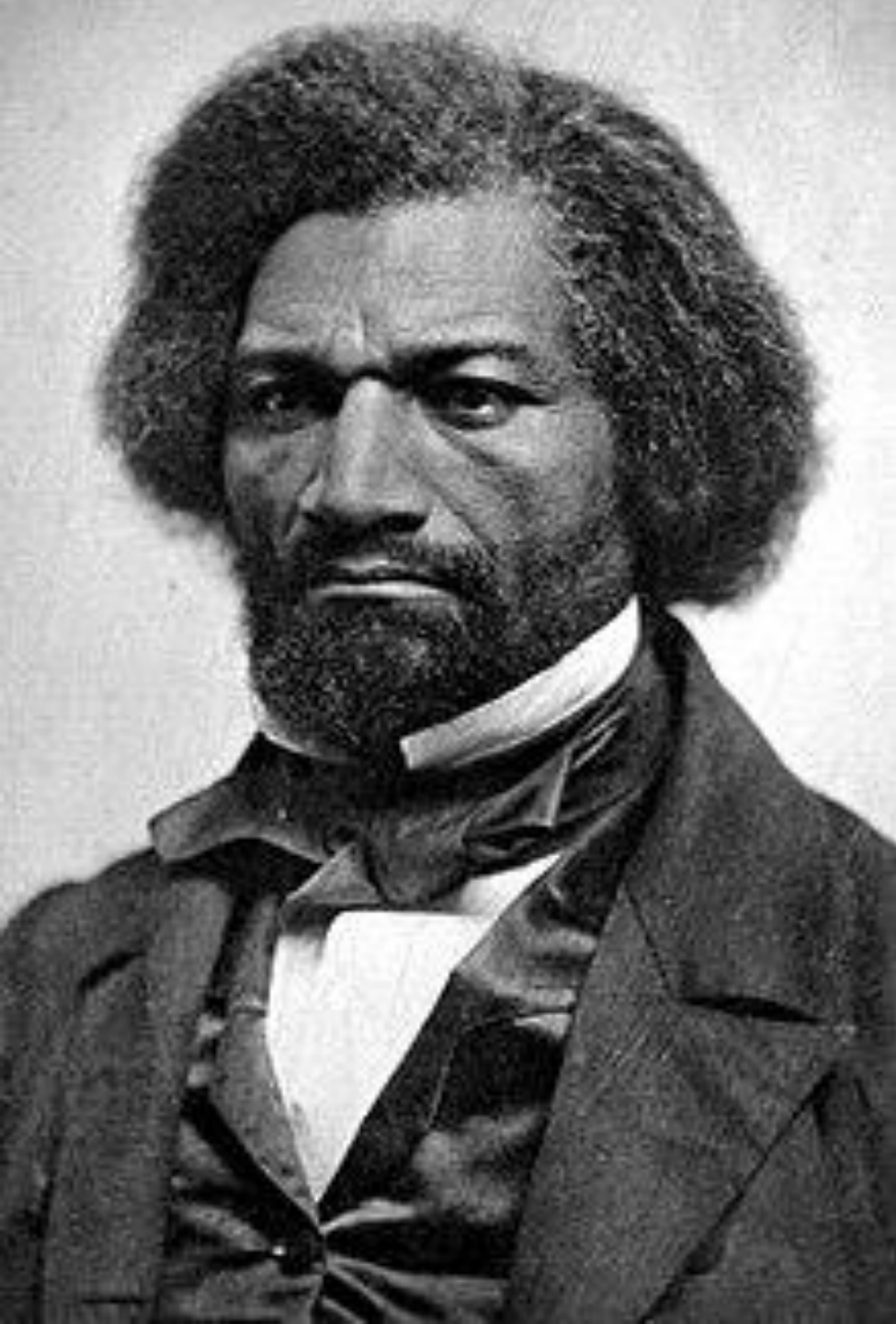
### 3. David Walker

- Born free in NC
- Settled in Boston
- Writer who published a powerful pamphlet
  - Challenged African Americans to rebel and overthrow slavery



#### 4. Philadelphia Convention

- 1830
- Free African American leaders
- Met "to devise ways and means for the bettering of our condition"
- Discusses starting an African American college
- Encouraged African Americans to move to Canada



---

## 5. Frederick Douglass

- Born into slavery in Maryland
  - Escaped in 1838 settling in Massachusetts
- Joined the Mass. Anti-Slavery Society
- Traveled widely to speak (powerful speaker) at abolitionist meetings
- Edited the anti-slavery newspaper, *The North Star*
- Insisted African Americans have full equality with whites
- 1847 = friends helped Douglass officially buy his freedom





---

## 6. Sojourner Truth

- Born into slavery in New York
  - Escaped in 1826
  - Officially gained freedom in 1827 when NY banned slavery
- Born as Isabella Baumfree
  - Chose a new name in 1843 = Sojourner Truth
- A powerful voice for abolition
  - Worked with William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass
- An active supporter of the women's rights movement



---

## 7. The Underground Railroad

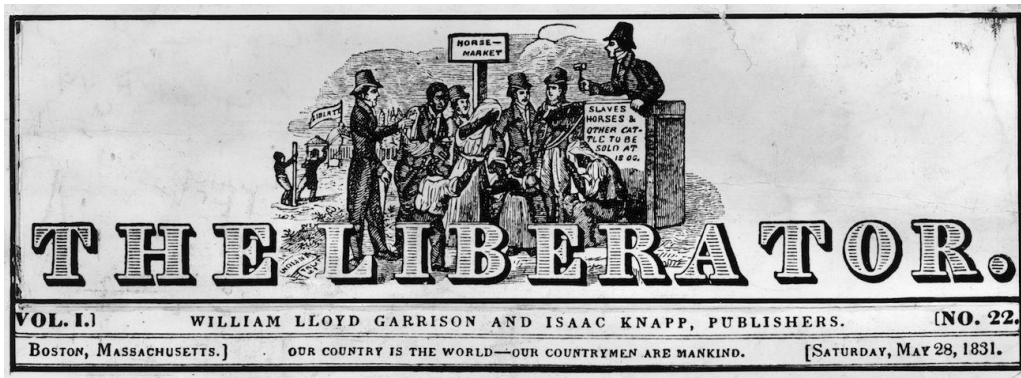
- A network of escape routes from the South to the North
- "Passengers" (escaping African Americans) escaped by night, often by foot
- The North Star was used as a guide
- During the day they rested at "stations" - barns, basements, & attics
- The railroad's "conductors" = people who guided the runaways to freedom in northern US & Canada
  - Harriet Tubman = most famous conductor
- Helped ~100,000 enslaved people escape

# III. Reaction to Abolitionists



# A. Northern Reaction

---



1. Only few white Northerners supported abolition
  - Many worried freed African Americans would never blend into American society
  - Others feared it could begin a war between the North & the South
2. Opposition to abolitionism led to violence
  - Philadelphia race riots followed the burning of an anti-slavery group's headquarters
  - Police jailed William Lloyd Garrison to protect him from a Boston mob



---

### 3. Elijah Lovejoy, Illinois

- Angry whites invaded his antislavery newspaper
- Wrecked his presses three times
- Lovejoy installed new presses everytime
- On the fourth time the mob attacked = building set on fire, Lovejoy shot & killed

## B. Southern Reaction

---

### 1. White Southerners fought abolitionism

- Defended slavery, claimed...
  - It was necessary to Southern economy
  - It had allowed whites to reach high level of culture
  - That they treated the enslaved well
  - That Northern workers were worse off than enslaved workers
    - They worked in factories
    - Long hours & low wages
    - Had to pay for own goods & services while the enslaved received food, clothing, and medical care
- Other defenses were based solely on straight forward racism





---

## 2. Senator James Henry Hammond

- Anti-abolotionist
- Said in an 1858 speech to Congress:  
"In all social systems there must be a class to do the mental duties, to perform the drudgery of life..such a class you must have, or you would not have the other class which leads progress, civilization, and refinement."