Was there a “Revolution of 1860?”

JOHN BROWN SONG!

Published at No. 256 Main Street, CHARLESTOWN, MASS.
Brown’s Legacy

When Brown attacked Harper’s Ferry he did so under the auspices of a “Black Constitution” which he and escaped slaves created while fleeing in Canada.

When news of his attack leaked, then news of his capture and sensational trial and execution—the nation spiraled into a year of violence, fear, and a presidential election—complete with four candidates.

The war had started!
Brown left notes about his favorite Biblical passage Hebrew 9:22, “Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.”

In Brown’s carpet bags authorities found maps of 7 southern states marking other targets—the result was genuine national fear.

Violence had become policy

A war won us the southwest

Violence became authorized by the Fugitive Slave Laws

A pacifist in 1850, by 1859 Frederick Douglass proclaimed men who supported slavery had no “right to live”.

Bleeding Kansas and Bleeding Sumner...
After Harper’s Ferry there was a Congressional Investigation, but the secret six refused to testify or fled to Canada.

The South was particularly fearful, and they faced a paradox:

ONE, they had always argued that slaves were happy in their “secure” situation. 
BUT, they lived in fear of slave uprisings!

America began to fracture.
Many like Theodore Parker, a prominent preacher, writer, called Brown a saint.

Brown in his last day was quoted as saying
“I am worth inconceivably more to hang”

At the moment he was hanged...
...northern Church bells tolled
...gun salutes fired
...ministers preached sermons of commemoration

A Kansas editor said
“the death of no man in America has ever produced so profound a sensation”
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a nationally known poet and educator, started to write poems against slavery in 1842, ...

“this will be a great day [brown’s hanging] the date of a new revolution”.

And it was—a revolution or turn toward war.

And when war broke, Union soldiers were already singing the popular song John Brown’s Song...later known as John Brown’s Body.
John Brown

Glory Hallelujah

NEW AND REVISED WORDS

1. John Brown's body lies a moldering in the grave,
   Glory, Hally, Hallelujah! Glory, Hally,
   Hallelujah! Glory, Hally, Hallelujah!
   His soul's marching on!
   CHORUS.

2. He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord,
   Glory, Hally, Hallelujah! Glory, Hally,
   Hallelujah! Glory, Hally, Hallelujah!
   His soul's marching on!
   CHORUS.

3. John Brown's knapsack is stripped upon his back—
   Glory, Hally, Hallelujah! Glory, Hally,
   Hallelujah! Glory, Hally, Hallelujah!
   His soul's marching on!
   CHORUS.

4. His pet lambs will meet him on the way—
   Glory, Hally, Hallelujah! &c.
   His soul's marching on!
   CHORUS.

5. They will hang Jeff Davis to a tree—
   They will hang Jeff Davis to a tree—
   As they march along!
   CHORUS.

6. Now, three rousing cheers for the Union!
   Now, three rousing cheers for the Union!
   As we are marching on!
   CHORUS.

Published by BOOT & CRYER, 43 Clark Street.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1862, by C. S. HALL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.
From South

“North has sanctioned murder”

Baltimore press, “Brown as no Christian hero”

Richmond paper, “it has brought almost a complete revolution”

Two words will become important

“revolution” was natural for a land born in a “revolution” and witnessing “good” revolutions in 1790 (France); and 1848 (Europe).

Ordinance as in the SC Ordinance of Secession—a LOCAL law
Atlanta, “We regard every man who does not boldly declare that he believes African slavery to be a social, moral and political blessing as an enemy to the institutions of the South.”

Southern states took action:
...appropriated money for arms
...thousands joined militias
...Yankees dared not travel south
...Northern teachers (badly needed) were summarily sent home and some schools closed.
...Anti-slave churches were burned.
FROM North
Some senators organized anti-Brown rallies to soothe Southerners.

William Seward, “sedition and treason”

Lincoln, “cannot excuse violence, bloodshed, & treason”.
THEN CAME DEM NOMINATING CONVENTION
Bad luck and poor planning ever, the Democratic convention was in Charleston, SC

Southern Democrats promised the “destroy” Douglas.

“This demagogue of Illinois deserves to perish!”

Southern Dems threatened to walk out if the Dem platform did not adopt a plank for a federal slave code.

Jefferson Davis sponsored a resolution in Congress & challenged the Democrats to adopt it:

“Not the congress, Not any state could impair the constitutional right of slave property”!
William Yancey: a fire-eater
“Ours are the institutions at stake...
Ours is the property that is to be destroyed...
Ours is the honor at stake.”

During the conventions the streets of Charleston were overfull with fire-eaters railing against Douglas.

The convention deadlocked
One group supported the Davis resolution
Douglas supporters wanted popular sovereignty
But Ohio Democrats fought back:

“We cannot recede from Pop sovereignty without personal dishonor...never, never, never, so help us God.”

Douglas won, and 50 delegates walked—after playing to win both N & S votes, Douglas just lost the south.
Those leaving—dubbed “bolters” re-organized and nominated John C. Breckenridge (KY) on a platform of a national slave code.
The Republicans could sense victory, William Seward in the lead—but he was “too” much of an abolitionist. Others at the top were all old timers, except one: Salmon Chase (OH); Simon Cameron (PA); Edward Bates (MO)—plus a newcomer popular for his speeches in Illinois, Abraham Lincoln.

As the convention took votes, Seward lost and Lincoln gained. He middle of the road approach—to not extend slavery seemed practical. It had the appeal of most northerners and of the border states.
Lincoln had become the darling of moderates. He was masterful in campaigning at Chicago — where his home town appeal was part of the convention. Inside the convention hall Lincoln supporters put up some old weather beaten rail fencing claiming “Old Abe” or “Honest Abe” had split the rails himself—genius!

The Chicago press said “no man has ever risen so fast”

The convention hall was dangerously over-crowded with 10,000 Lincoln supporters. On the first ballot Seward had 173 ½ to Lincoln’s 102; but two votes later Lincoln had 231 ½ , only 233 was needed & Ohio changed its votes and Lincoln was in.
Lincoln the rail splitter, 1909
Massive campaign effort.

Young men had been formed in “wide awake” clubs during the last three presidential elections—and Lincoln used them effectively. Wearing black robes and top hats they marched at night with torches.

Songbooks poured out
Posters and wooden fence rails were everywhere.

The race was on.
N. Whigs created a Constitutional Union party and nominated John Bell (TN)—and adopted a platform to “enforce the laws”.
For President
ABRAM LINCOLN.
For Vice President
HANNIBAL HAMLIN.
A PROCESSION, PROBABLY IN THE 1860 CAMPAIGN, HALTED IN FRONT OF LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD HOME.

Abraham Lincoln is the tall figure in white at the right of the doorway.
ELECTION

Douglas could win with 7-8 Northern states and 1-2 border states

Despite failing health he gave 50,000 speeches

And in a time when custom said others should campaign, Douglas directly campaigned for himself. The Democrats clearly started using race again—

“Lincoln is for free love and free niggers”
THE WIDE AWAKE CAMPAIGN
1860

DRAWINGS
by JOHN WOLCOTT ADAMS

FREEDOM'S BATTLE-CRY.

Words by W. H. BURLEIGH.

1. Hark! 'tis Freedom's battle-cry, Pealing o-ver hill and glen, Thrilling upward to the
   sky, Hear it! ye who would be men. Ye who love the true and right, Hon-est
   woods Sounds the toe-sin of the Free! Rock, and tree, and mountain crest, E-cho
   rule, and e-qual laws, Gath-er, gath-er in your might; Strike again for Freedom's cause.
   to its glad refrain, From the prai-ries of the west To the farthest coasts of Maine.

By permission of C. & W. H. B
Democrats dealt another blow.

As Douglas and the Dems struggled, the Democratic pro-south administration of Buchanan was racked by internal fraud and corruption.

“Plunder of the Public Treasury”

Bribes had been paid to Congressmen to vote for the pro-slave KS constitution. Secretary of War John Floyd sold federal land at reduced prices to friends.
Abolitionist critics felt Lincoln did not go far enough.

Garrison and other abolitionist said Lincoln was not enough. “Lincoln will do nothing...can do nothing”...to end slavery

Garrison wanted...repeal of the Fugitive Slave Act; and end to international slave trade; and gradual abolition.

Yet Frederick Douglass said Lincoln’s election

“was a move in the right direction”.
The southern press during the campaign clearly stirred up fear—many stories (mostly false) of slave rebellions; of northerners bring guns south; etc were daily features.

“The election of Lincoln is sufficient cause for disunion”

“The south will never submit to such humiliation and degradation as the inauguration of A. Lincoln.”

“Every vote cast for Lincoln is a deliberate cold-blooded insult and outrage”

New Orleans.

Lincoln was constantly branded the “Black Republican”
Fighting back Douglas started getting desperate—he went south, risking his life.

He said he would personally (as President) hang any man not obeying the law of the land.

Douglas and his supporters also tried to build fusion tickets in NY, PA, RI—where the electors of any candidate but Lincoln would cast their votes for Douglas.
Red-Lincoln, Republican
Green-Douglas, National Democrats
Blue-Breckenridge, Southern Democrats
Yellow-Bell, Constitutional Union

1860 Electoral College Results
Let the People Rejoice!

Capital shall not own us!

Lincoln elected!

The people true to liberty.
Illinois redeemed!
She votes for Lincoln.
She chooses Republican Legislature.
She repudiates Douglas.

GOD BLESS THE OLD KEYSSTONE!!

GOD BLESS NEW YORK!

Lincoln carries all the Atlantic States but New Jersey.
An avalanche of freemen.

Shout boys shout, victory is ours, freedom is Triumphant.
COUNTER REVOLUTION—SOUTH SECEEDS

L ELECTED November 6, 1860
SC secedes Dec 20, 1860—MI, FL, AL, GA, LA, TX follow

St. Andrews Hall, or Secession Hall, Charleston SC
But most southerners fell into three camps:

1. Secessionists
2. Those who demanded Lincoln meet a list of ultimatums:
   - Repeal personal liberty laws
   - Enforce the fugitive slave laws
   - Allow slavery N of 36 30
3. Those willing to wait and see.
Thousands literally danced in the streets in Savannah, Charleston, Atlanta.

The Atlanta newspaper said

“women and children with popguns could defend us from the Yankees”
Was it legal?

—remember revolution & ordinance

South’s argument—yes

States had been formed and were autonomous before a federal government

States used a convention to enter into the federal compact, so they could use a convention to end that compact

Any state had a right of revolution
Secession rhetoric

J. Davis, “will you be robbed of your property”?

CSA soldier, “I am fighting for the rights of man.”

“Lincoln’s election proves he intends to free the Negro and force amalgamation”.

Outgoing Buchanan denies the right of secession

Most people in the North agree, as did Lincoln...

“secession is anarchy”—a common theme
Northerners were truly worried about losing control...

...of the lower Miss. R and of confusion over foreign trade

...a Wall Street panic scared many

For four months the nation talked, but took no action until Lincoln was inaugurated March 4

But some said let the south go
And others tried compromises that all failed in congress
Finally the Committee of Thirteen put together the Crittenden Compromise. These were a series of Amendments to the constitution:

- **Protect states with slavery** from all federal intervention
- **Prohibit slavery in territories north** of 30°36'
- **Protect slavery in territories south** of 30°36', now held or hereafter acquired
- **Forbid Congress** from prohibiting slavery on any federal land within a slave state
- **Forbid Congress** from prohibiting slavery in the District of Columbia
- **Forbid Congress** from interfering in international slave trade
- **Compensate owners** who have lost slaves in the lack enforcement of the fugitive slave act

Lincoln let it be known the Crittenden amendments went too far, and the South was happily seceding anyway.
In early 1861, seven states convened to form the confederacy.

Virginia, Arkansas, and Missouri held state conventions, but delegates were mostly unionists.

North Carolina and Tennessee held no state conventions.

By early March-April Missouri, Arkansas, & Virginia rejected secession.

A few of Crittenden’s ideas passed, as the Confederate Convention was meeting...

Most of the Confederate constitution was copied from the U.S. Constitution; save the protections for slavery and the limits on the President to serve one six year term.
On Feb 9 Jefferson Davis was elected as the Confederate States of American President—a military man, grad of West Point, senator, and Sec. of War he was able.

He immediately appointed a cabinet—one from each of the seven confederate states—a terrible mistake
Lincoln in contrast filled his cabinet with his political opponents—the republican party was too new to have much else.

For most of the 4 months Lincoln, Seward, and worked on the inaugural speech.

The seven seceding states were taking over customs houses, forts, lands, etc.

Mail, tariff collections and other services were a mess. Lincoln’s speech did buy time and did seem to appease the upper south.
Star of the West attempts to re-supply Major Anderson
Conclusions.

John Brown’s legacy was violence and hatred, old arguments were gone. The phrase “revolution” was used by both sides to note a changed attitude. Southern states acted to arm themselves. Northern leaders condemned the violence, but failed to allay Southern fears. The Democratic convention split...

...northerners nominating Douglas; southerners nominating Breckenridge. Republicans select Lincoln the “rail splitter” after four votes. Border states nominate John Bell as Constitutional Unionist candidate.

In the election, Douglas is forced to go south. Campaigning includes new tactics, the Wide Awakes, and the race card. Lincoln branded a Black Republican lost the South; but was handily elected. By December another revolution takes place—secession. South Carolina leads secession, six states follow. The secession rhetoric claims secession is legal, others deny it.

By February Jefferson Davis is elected and serving as President of the Confederacy before Lincoln is even sworn in.

As Lincoln enters office, federal property across the South is threatened—including Fort Sumter.