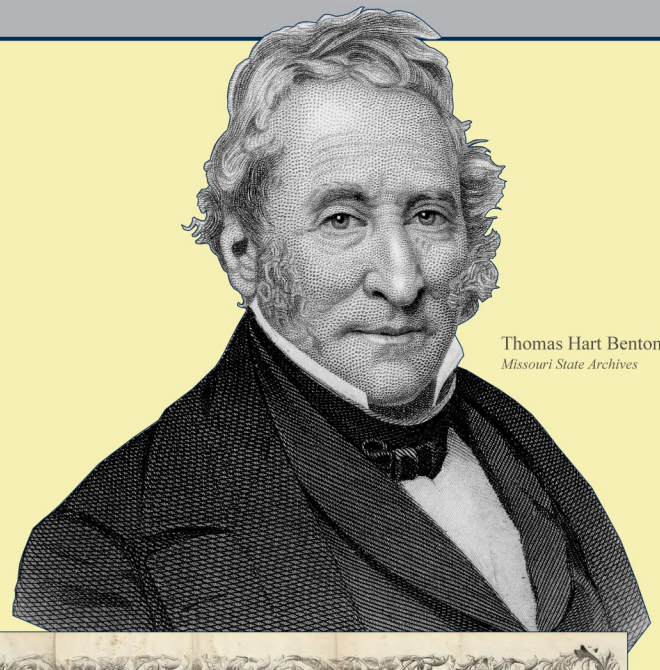
DIVIDED LOYALTIES
CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FROM THE MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

WAR ON THE HORIZON

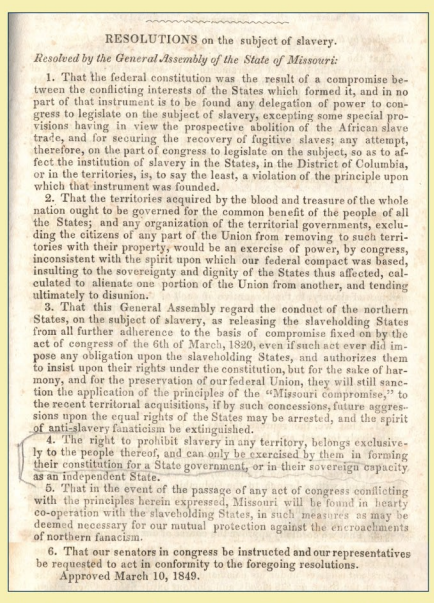
THE JACKSON RESOLUTIONS

As the U. S. Congress wrestled with the question of whether to allow slavery in new territories, the Missouri State Legislature passed the Jackson Resolutions directing the state's congressional delegation how to vote in the matter. Named after Claiborne Fox Jackson, who introduced them in 1849, the resolutions stated that the question of slavery was one that the American people—not Congress—should decide.



Thomas Hart Benton.
Missouri State Archives

U. S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton from Missouri refused to abide by the Jackson Resolutions and made his opposition to them the central issue of his 1850 re-election campaign. Benton lost the race to Whig candidate Henry S. Geyer because Benton believed the question of slavery in the territories should be decided by congress.



RESOLUTIONS on the subject of slavery.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri:

1. That the federal constitution was the result of a compromise between the conflicting interests of the slaveholding and the free states; that a part of that instrument is to be found any delegation of power to congress to legislate on the subject of slavery, excepting some special provisions having in view the prospective abolition of the African slave trade, and for securing the recovery of fugitive slaves; any attempt, therefore, on the part of congress, to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or the institution of slavery in the States, in the District of Columbia, or in the territories, is, to say the least, a violation of the principle upon which that instrument was founded.

2. That the territories acquired by the blood and treasure of the whole people, belong to the people of the United States, and not to the people of the States; and any organization of the territorial government, or any holding the citizens of any part of the Union from removing to such territories with their property would be an exercise of power, by congress, inconsistent with the spirit upon which our federal compact was based, calculated to alienate one portion of the Union from another, and tending ultimately to dissolution.

3. That this General Assembly regard the conduct of the northern States, on the subject of slavery, as violating the slaveholding States from a further adherence to the basis of compromise fixed on by the act of congress of the 6th of March, 1820, even if such act ever did bind any section of the country, and as a sufficient cause for the slaveholding States to insist upon their rights under the constitution, but for the sake of harmony, and for the preservation of our federal Union, they will still sustain the application of the principles of the "Missouri compromise" to the recent territorial acquisitions, if by such concession, future aggression can be avoided, and the rights of property may be secured, and the spirit of mutual forbearance be strengthened.

4. The right to prohibit slavery in any territory, belongs exclusively to the people thereof, and can only be exercised by them in forming their constitution for a State government, or in their sovereign capacity after they have formed a State.

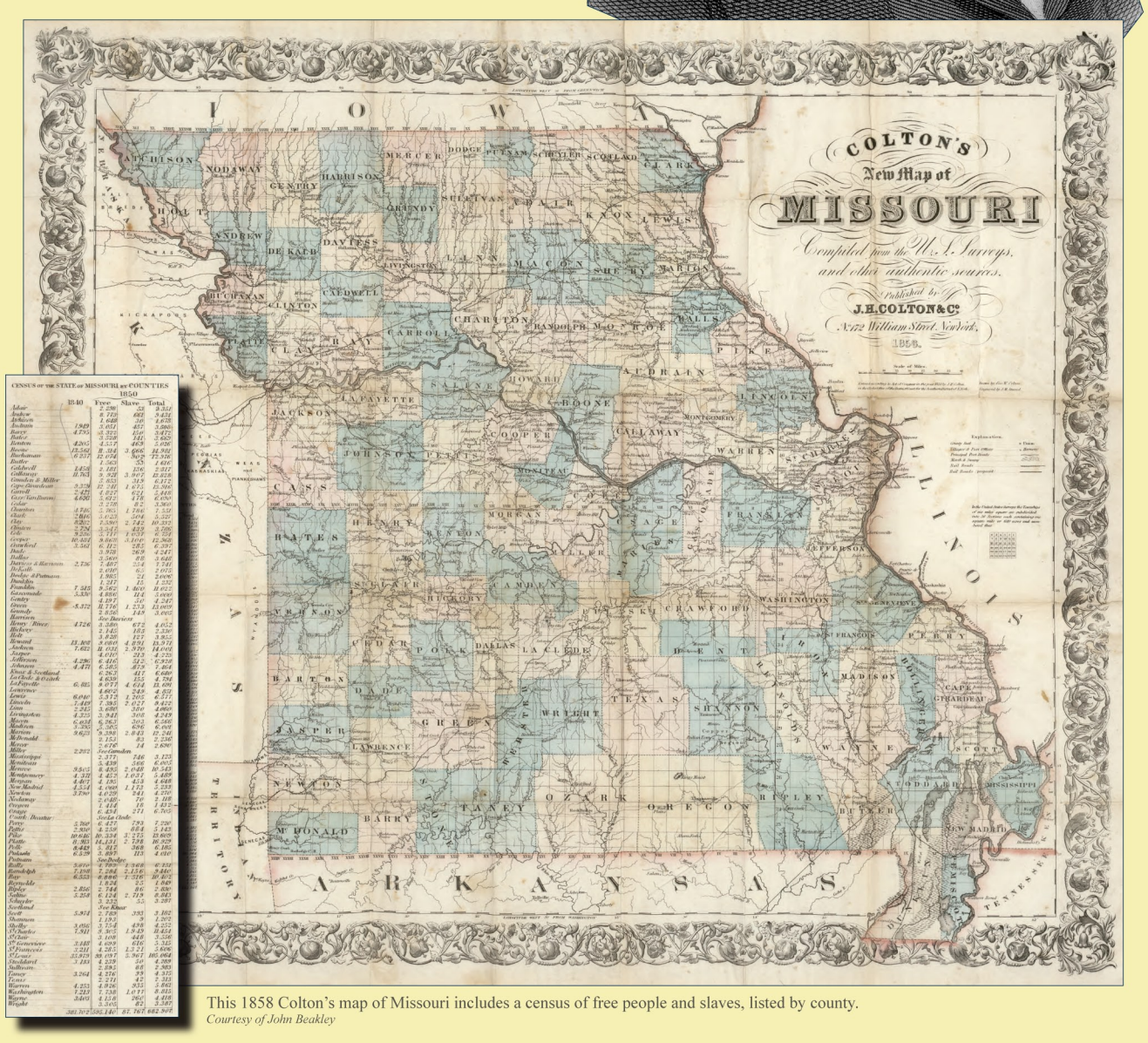
5. That in the event of the passage of any act of congress conflicting with the principles herein expressed, Missouri will be found in hearty cooperation with the slaveholding States, in such measures as may be deemed necessary for our mutual protection against the encroachments of northern fanaticism.

6. That our senators in congress be instructed and our representatives be requested to act in accordance with the foregoing resolutions.

Approved March 10, 1849.

The Jackson Resolutions, *Laws of Missouri 1848-1849.*
Missouri State Archives

"The right to prohibit slavery in any territory, belongs exclusively to the people thereof . . . "



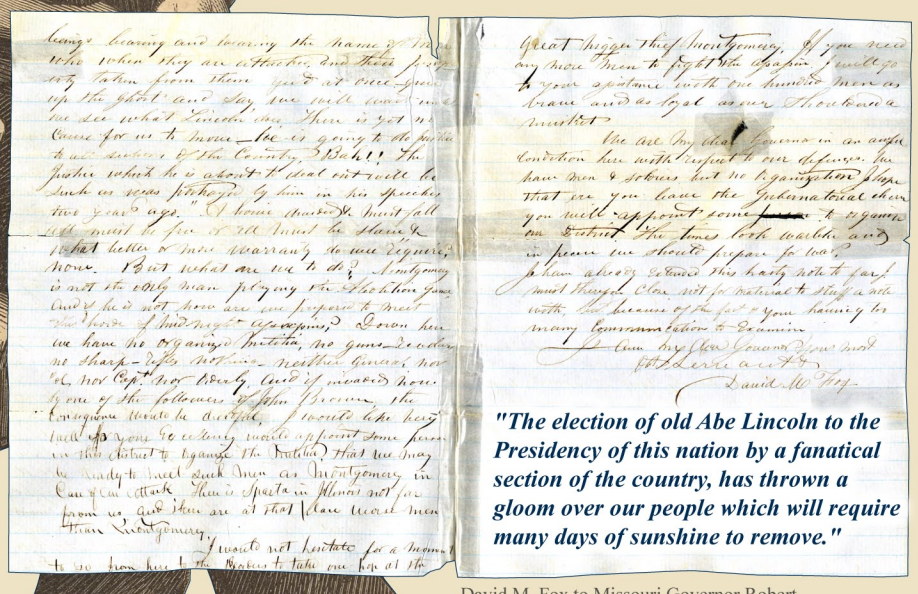
This 1858 Colton's map of Missouri includes a census of free people and slaves, listed by county.
Courtesy of John Beakley

Abraham Lincoln.
Harpers Weekly

LINCOLN'S ELECTION

In the presidential election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln did not win in a single Southern or border state. In Missouri, he finished a distant fourth place behind Stephen A. Douglas, John Bell, and John C. Breckinridge.

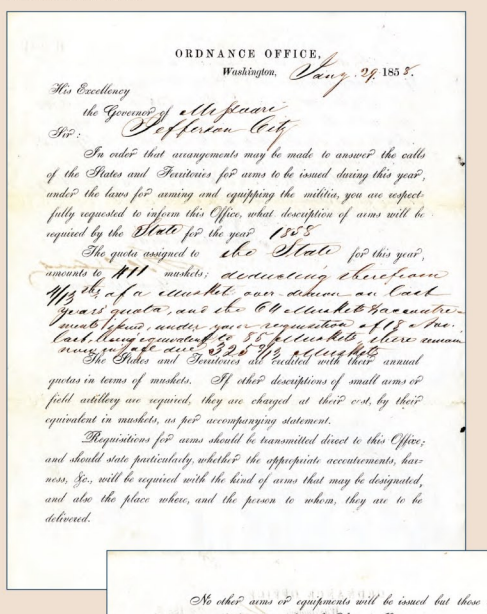
Worried that the new President might try to outlaw slavery, Southern states began to secede from the Union even before Lincoln's inauguration in March 1861.



"The election of old Abe Lincoln to the Presidency of this nation by a fanatical section of the country, has thrown a gloom over our people which will require many days of sunshine to remove."

David M. Fox to Missouri Governor Robert Marcellus Stewart, 27 November 1860.
Missouri State Archives

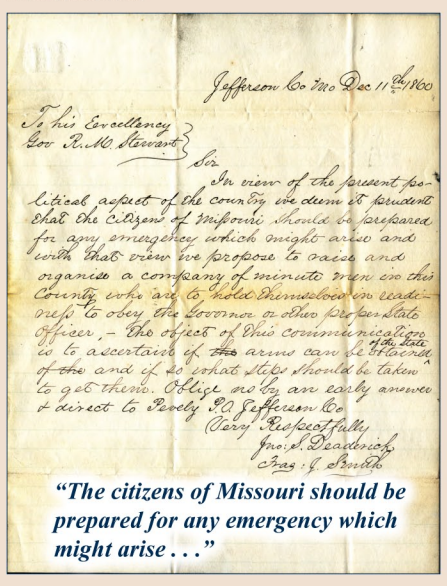
Office of Ordinance to Missouri Governor Robert Marcellus Stewart, 29 January 1858.
Missouri State Archives



ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, Jany. 29 1857.

"you are respectfully requested to inform this Office what description of arms will be required by the State for the year 1858."

John Deaderick and Frazier Smith to Missouri Governor Robert Marcellus Stewart, 11 December 1860.
Missouri State Archives

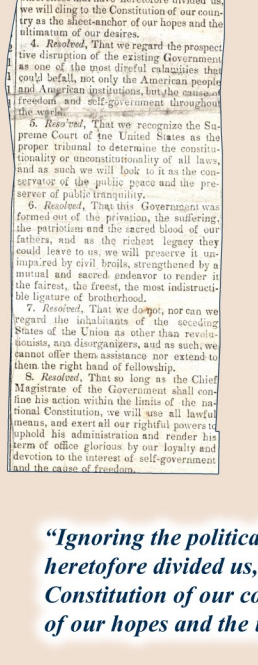


Jefferson City Dec 11th 1860

"The citizens of Missouri should be prepared for any emergency which might arise . . ."

MASS MEETING IN OLD CHARAWAY.

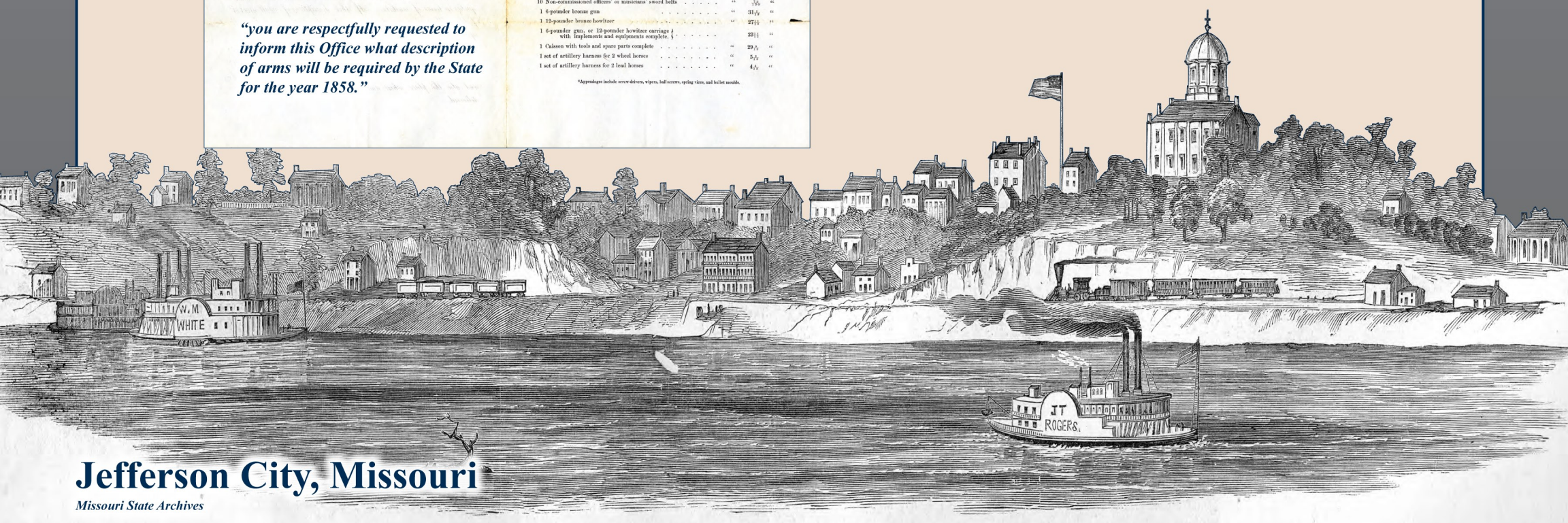
Clipping from unknown newspaper, November 1860.
Missouri State Archives



MINORITY REPORT.

"Ignoring the political differences that have heretofore divided us, we will cling to the Constitution of our country as the sheet-anchor of our hopes and the ultimatum of our desires."

WAR ON THE HORIZON



Jefferson City, Missouri
Missouri State Archives

1848 - 1861