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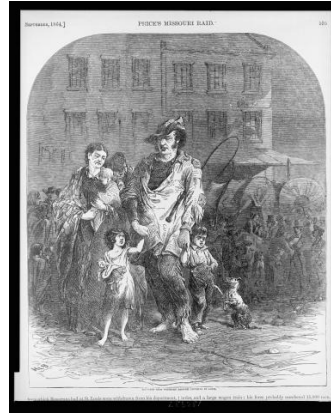
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America's Civil War significantly impacted people living in Missouri. This print, made from a wood engraving, depicts a Civil-War-era refugee family arriving in St. Louis from the northern area of Missouri. They had survived Price's Raid (which occurred in 1864). Henry Louis Stephens (1824-1882) created the work, and it was later published in several places (including *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War*, Volume 2, page 595, released circa 1894). [Online via the Library of Congress.](#)

When America's Civil War began, in April of 1861, Jesse James was fourteen years old. As Confederate forces attacked Ft. Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, Jesse was living at home, on the James family farm. His mother Zerelda, now married to her third husband (Dr. Reuben Samuel), still owned slaves and supported the Confederacy. So did the rest of her family.

When President Lincoln called for troops from Missouri - one of the border states allowing slavery but still part of the Union - the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, received a curt reply from the state's governor, Claiborne Jackson:

Your dispatch of the 15th instant, making a call on Missouri for four regiments of men for immediate service, has been received. There can be, I apprehend, no doubt but the men are intended to form a part of the President's army to make war upon the people of the seceded States.

Your requisition, in my judgment, is illegal, unconstitutional, and revolutionary in its object, in human and diabolical, and cannot be complied with. Not one man will the State of Missouri furnish to carry on any such unholy crusade. (Official Records of the Civil War, Series 3, Vol 1, Part 1, pages 82 and 83.)

The governor also had choice words for Missouri's citizens (who had given Stephen Douglas a slight majority of votes in the 1860 presidential election):

I hold it to be my solemn duty to remind you that Missouri is still one of the United States ... and that meanwhile it is your duty to obey all constitutional requirements of the Federal Government. But it is equally my duty to advise you that your first allegiance is due to your own State, and that you are under no obligation whatever to obey the unconstitutional edicts of the military despotism which has enthroned itself at Washington. (Governor's Proclamation to the People of Missouri, 12 June 1861)

Although a St. Louis mob attacked Union volunteers within the first month of the war, people in Missouri supported both sides. Before the war ended, nearly 110,000 Missourians had served on the Union side and about 40,000 served with the Confederacy. Each side's flag included a star for Missouri. Fighting in that state - where the Federal government had an arsenal in St. Louis - was not just North versus South, it was often neighbor versus neighbor.

Too young to fight, Jesse worked the farm with the family's slaves. Nearly four years older than his brother, Frank joined a group of Confederate partisans.

On a life-changing day, during May of 1863, Jesse witnessed an unnerving event. To understand what really happened - and to separate legend from fact - let's investigate how contemporary sources, and a family member, describe what occurred when Northern troops hanged Dr. Samuel at his home, nearly causing his death.

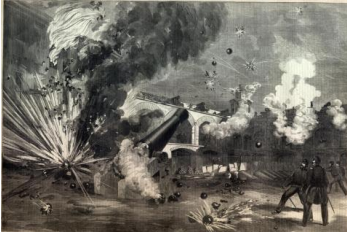
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MISSOURI-and-the-CIVIL-WAR-Jesse-James>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MISSOURI-and-the-CIVIL-WAR-Jesse-James>

Media Stream



Attack on Ft Sumter - The Civil War Begins

Library of Congress, digital image.

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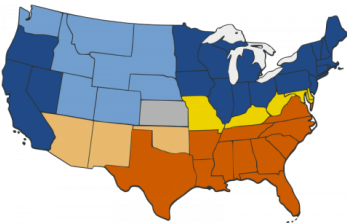
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Attack-on-Ft-Sumter-The-Civil-War-Begins>



Jesse James, Fourteen Years Old

Image, courtesy James Farm Museum.

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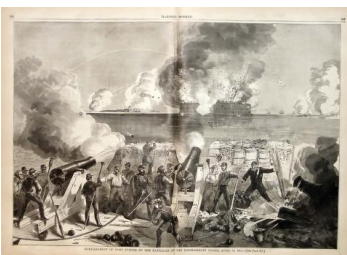


Map Depicting Border States, U.S. Civil War

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Confederate Attack on Ft. Sumter - April 13, 1861

Library of Congress, digital image.

Dates of Engagement: 10-13 April, 1861

Principal Commanders:

Major Robert Anderson [US];

Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard [CSA]

Forces Engaged:

580 total: US 80; CSA, estimated 500)

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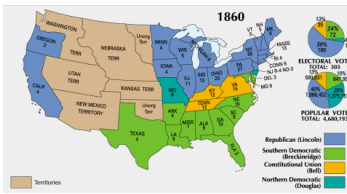
Claiborne Jackson, Missouri's Governor

Image, U.S. National Archives.

Quote: National Park Service web page on Jackson.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Claiborne-Jackson-Missouri-s-Governor>



1860 Presidential Election - Popular, Electoral Votes

Map, courtesy the National Atlas of the U.S.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/1860-Presidential-Election-Popular-Electoral-Votes>



General Fremont. Union Troops Cheered in Missouri

Image, information and quote:

Harper's Weekly

August 31, 1861

Page 555

Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/General-Fremont.-Union-Troops-Cheered-in-Missouri>



Camp Blood - Union Forces in Missouri

Harper's Weekly

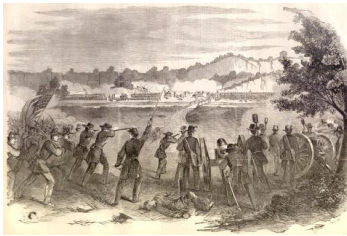
September 21, 1861

Image, Page 596

Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Camp-Blood-Union-Forces-in-Missouri>



Battle of Carthage - Confederate Victory

Digital image, Library of Congress

From *Harper's Weekly*

August 3, 1861

Page 486

Information and quotes regarding the Battle of Carthage, National Park Service.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-of-Carthage-Confederate-Victory>



Union Arsenal in St. Louis

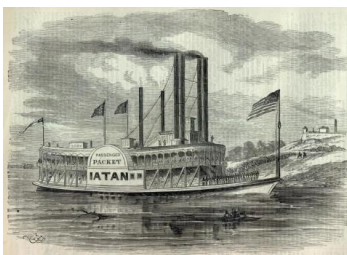
Image, Library of Congress.

From *Harper's Weekly*

May 11, 1861

Image, Page 300

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Union-Arsenal-in-St.-Louis>



Union Troops Transported to Jefferson City, MO

Image, Library of Congress.

From *Harper's Weekly*

July 6, 1861.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Union-Troops-Transported-to-Jefferson-City-MO>