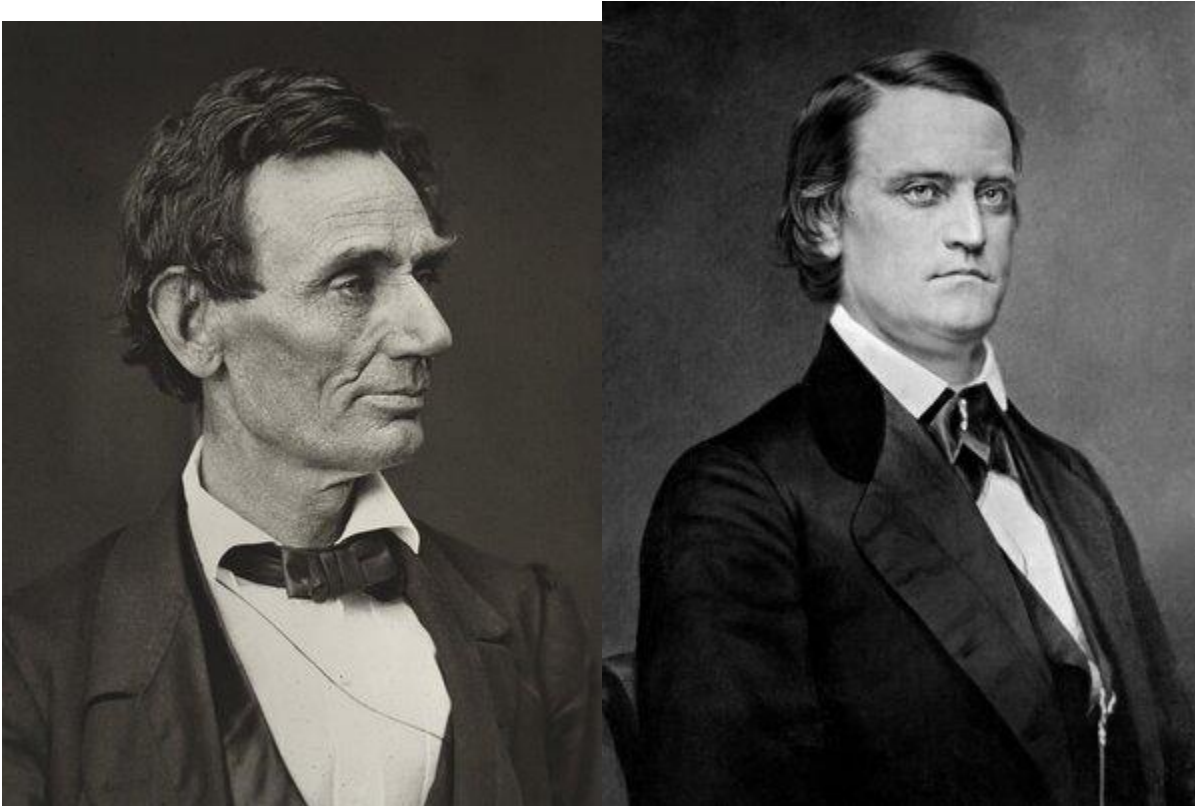


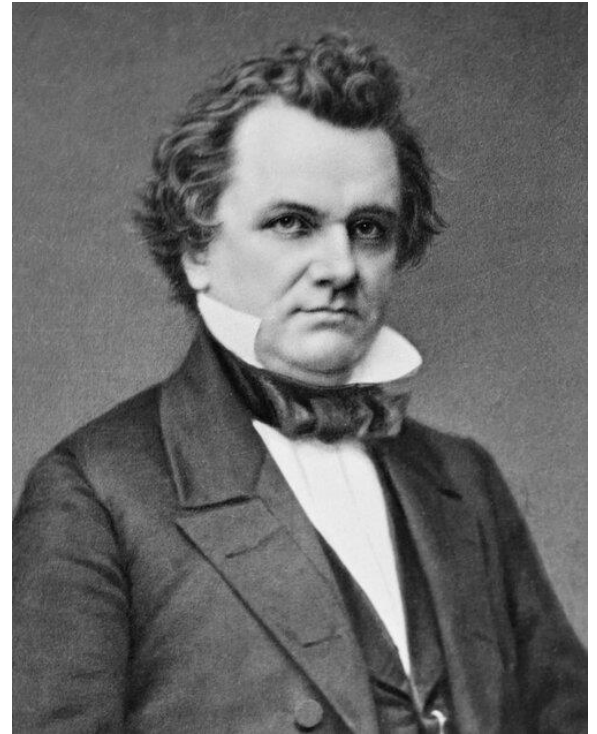
May 27, 2020

This Month 160 Years Ago

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)

With the amount of coverage that the American Civil War is currently receiving on the History Channel it is worthwhile to pause for moment and give context to this month 160 years ago. It was only a short time ago that we were celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the War but continued interest abounds!





By the end of May 1860 American political parties are having their conventions to name their choice for presidential nominee. Pictured here are: Lincoln, Breckinridge, Bell, Douglas.

The Republican Convention in May 1860 would eventually lead to Abraham Lincoln being named as the nominee, though there were other options, including Senator William H. Seward of New York, Governor Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, former Representative Edward Bates of Missouri, and Senator Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania.

The Democratic Convention would select Stephen A. Douglas at their convention in May however the southern delegates were excluded from the convention or chose not to participate. Therefore, another convention was held.

This time, a nominee would be pushed forward to represent what would become the Southern Democratic party which would be supported by then President of the United States, and Pennsylvanian, James Buchanan. This would give rise to two nominees from similarly named but quite unique parties. The Southern Democratic Party nominee was John C. Breckinridge.

The May 9th Constitution Party convention was perhaps the shortest of all with the nominee being easily selected – Senator John Bell.

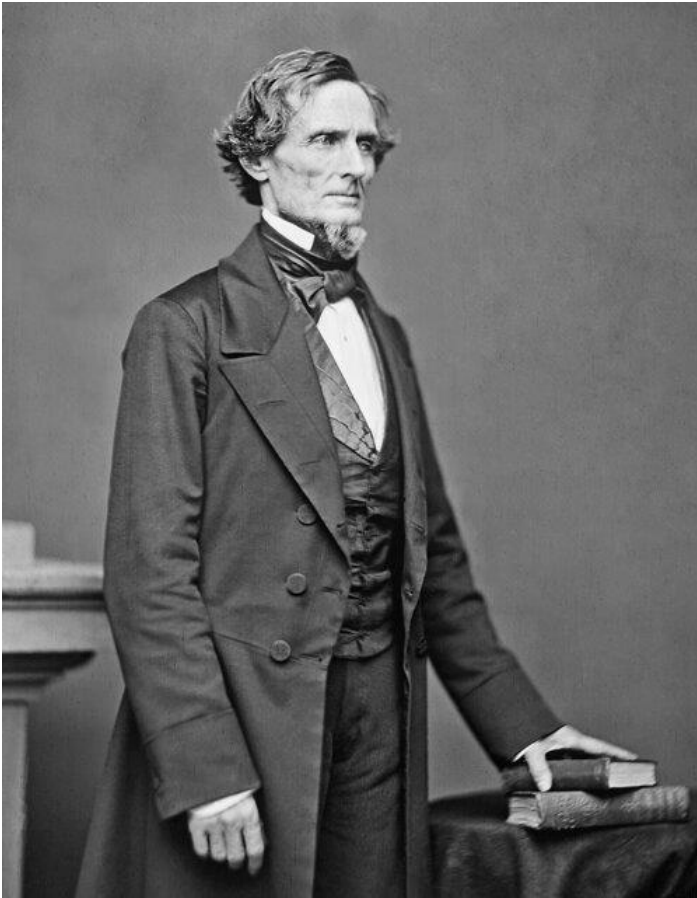


Photo of Jefferson Davis.

At the opening of 1860 Senator Jefferson Davis from the state of Mississippi (former Secretary of War and future CSA President) would publicly come out in support of secession, and by the end of the year, South Carolina would be the first Southern State to secede; such action was taken by the South Carolinian legislature through the passing of the articles of secession, so named the *Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union*.

Unfortunately the embers of secession and war had been fanned in the decades prior to the War... 1860 would see it ablaze rather assuredly.