
GETTYSBURG

The Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania was a turning point in the Civil War. The battle was fought July 1-3, 1863, and resulted in a Union victory that ended General Robert E. Lee's second invasion of the North.

The Army of the Potomac, the Union Army led by General George Gordon Meade, collided with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at the town of Gettysburg. The Union victory at the Battle of Gettysburg resulted in Lee's retreat to Virginia and ended the hopes of the Confederacy for victory. It was the war's bloodiest battle with 51,000 casualties.

What was the significance of the battle of Gettysburg?

What impact did the battle of Gettysburg have on the Confederacy's war effort?

NULLIFICATION

In the early 1800s, Congress passed several protective tariffs. A tariff is a tax on imported goods designed to keep out competition. The tariffs raised the price of goods sold in the United States. Because the South had so few factories and had to import most products, southerners were particularly hard hit by the tariffs and blamed the tariffs for their poor economy. John C. Calhoun, then vice president of the United States, had written in *The South Carolina Exposition* that a state could nullify (prevent the enforcement of) a federal law. Recognizing that the slave states would lose their power as time passed, Calhoun believed nullification provided a way for the South to protect slavery.

South Carolina challenged the enforcement of the tariff of 1832 and called for a special convention. The convention nullified the tariff and refused to collect any tariff taxes. The state also threatened to set up a separate government outside the Union—effectively seceding—if the federal government resorted to force. South Carolina found little support among the other southern states. A compromise settled the crisis. Congress passed a new tariff that gradually reduced the tariff duties to earlier rates. South Carolina repealed its nullification of the earlier tariff.

What is a tariff? Why was Congress passing them?

Why did the South believe nullification acts could protect their use of slavery?

What did South Carolina threaten to do if the tariff of 1832 was enforced?

STATES' RIGHTS

Probably the simplest, or at least the clearest, difference between the North and South involved the concept of states' rights. **States' rights** is the belief that the state's interests should take precedence over the interests of the national government.

Northern states believed that, in order for the United States to function as one Union, political decisions should be made that would benefit the entire country. They believed that all states should abide by laws made by Congress, signed by the president, or decreed by the courts.

Southern states, on the other hand, believed deeply in the idea of states' rights. They thought that states had the right to govern themselves and to decide what would be best for their own needs and situation. They believed that politicians from a state like Maine or New York could not possibly understand or care about Georgia or South Carolina.

1. Define “state’s rights.”

2. Why did the South believe that the national government should not interfere with state governing?

3. Briefly compare the views of the North and South on the issue of state’s rights.

RAILROADS

A major economic development during the early 1800s was the building of railroads. Before the railroads were built, people traveled on horses, boats, or stagecoaches. Freight was sent to market by riverboats, ferries, or wagon trains.

At first, rail travel was, perhaps, the least favored means of transportation. In 1830, there were only 13 miles of laid track in the United States, and those belonged to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. But just ten years later, there were 3,300 miles of track. Most of the track in Georgia belonged to the Western and Atlantic Railroad, which was chartered in 1836. The Western and Atlantic ran from a point near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee, to a point on the southeastern bank of the Chattahoochee River. That point was called Terminus, which literally means the end of a railroad line. Today it is known as Atlanta. The railroads dramatically shortened travel time for both passengers and freight, reducing to hours trips that had previously taken days.

What mode of transportation was important for Georgia before the Civil War and during its war efforts?

Why was Atlanta once called Terminus?

What were Georgia's major forms of transportation before railroads?

WORCESTER V. GEORGIA, JOHN MARSHALL, AND JOHN ROSS

Most Georgians did not care what happened to the Indians, but a group of white missionaries living in Cherokee territory did. To remove the missionaries, the Georgia legislature passed a law on December 22, 1830, that said a white person could not live on Cherokee land without taking an oath of allegiance to the governor. Eleven people, including the Reverend Samuel Worcester, postmaster at the Cherokee capital of New Echota, refused to sign the oath. They were jailed in March, 1831. They were set free but arrested again in July. This time, they were chained and made to walk from the North Georgia mountains to Lawrenceville. At their trial in September, the jury took only fifteen minutes to return a verdict of guilty. Gwinnett County Judge Augustin Clayton sentenced the group to four years at the state penitentiary in Milledgeville. Governor George Gilmer agreed to pardon anyone who would take an oath of loyalty to the state, and all but two agreed. Missionaries Worcester and Elizur Butler took their cases to the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled in Worcester v. Georgia that the decision of the Lawrenceville court could not stand because Cherokee territory was not subject to state law.

The Cherokee thought the ruling meant they could keep their land and government. Chief Justice Marshall ordered Butler and Worcester set free, but Judge Clayton refused. Georgia's newly elected governor, Wilson Lumpkin, would not take a stand against the judge. Even the president refused to honor the Supreme Court order.

Cherokee lands were divided into lots of 40 and 160 acres. In 1832, the government held a state lottery to give the Cherokee lands to white men. Even then, the Cherokee refused to leave their home.

On January 9, 1833, Worcester and Butler gave up and told Governor Lumpkin that they would "abandon litigation." (**Litigation** is a legal court action.) The governor pardoned them and then said the two missionaries must leave the state and never return.

More and more, the Cherokee were run off their lands, whipped, and even killed. Chief John Ross made several trips to Washington to ask Congress for help. He wanted the Cherokee protected and the terms of past treaties honored. No help was given. Time was running out for the Cherokee Nation.

Who was fighting the Georgia legislature's ruling that Cherokee swear allegiance to Georgia? What

happened to him?

What happened to Cherokee lands in 1832?

What was Chief John Ross doing to help the Cherokee?

PROCLAMATION OF 1763

King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763 shortly after the end of the French and Indian War. The proclamation forbade the colonists to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. This proclamation also moved Georgia's southern boundary to the St. Marys River. At the same time, the Cherokee and the Creek gave up all lands between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers north to Augusta, which was Georgia's second oldest city. They also gave up the coastal land south of the Altamaha River.

When the land came under Georgia's control, settlers began to migrate to the colony. The new boundaries were important to Georgia's growth. Not only did they provide water access for future shipping, but they also provided good farmland and dense forests with timber and naval stores resources.

What did the Proclamation of 1763 forbade the colonists to do?

Where was Georgia's southern boundary after the Proclamation?

ELIJAH CLARKE AND THE BATTLE OF KETTLE CREEK

Morale throughout the colonies was at an all-time low. Finally, in February 1779, Georgia had a victory. A rebel militia group led by Colonel Elijah Clarke (after whom Clarke County is named) defeated a force of more than 800 British troops at the Battle of Kettle Creek, about eight miles from Washington, Georgia.

The Battle of Kettle Creek was minor when compared to those fought in other parts of the country. It was, however, important to Georgia. The militia was able to take badly needed weapons and horses from the British soldiers, and the spirits of the Georgia militia were lifted by their victory.

What was the importance of the Battle of Kettle Creek?

How did this battle compare with other battles in the Revolutionary war?

GEORGIA CONSTITUTION OF 1777

Georgia joined the other colonies in celebrating the decision to become independent of Great Britain. The former colonies were tired of being governed and living under laws made by Great Britain, which they believed was both out of touch and too far away to understand their needs. The new goal for each colony was statehood. Each new state was to develop its own method of governance and pass laws that met its needs.

Work was begun on a state constitution to replace the earlier "Rules and Regulations," which had been used to govern the state. Writing the new constitution was not easy. Some citizens wanted a government like the one already in place, with most of the power in the hands of a few wealthy landowners and merchants. The Whigs, a more extreme group, wanted to give all the people of Georgia a chance to govern themselves. The Whigs won, and Georgia decided on a government based on the separation of powers and the rights of citizens to agree with how they were governed.

By May 1777, Georgia adopted its first state constitution at a constitutional convention held in Savannah. The parish system was done away with, and eight counties were formed. However well meaning the lawmakers were in developing the 1777 constitution, there were problems. Rather than a bicameral legislature, the Constitution of 1777 provided for a unicameral, or one-house, legislature. This single legislative body had very broad powers, including the ability to make appointments for the judicial branch (the courts) and the executive branch (the governor).

Stung by the loyalty of former governors to the king, the members of the constitutional convention wanted to limit severely the influence and power of the governor. They proposed a one-year term for the governor. The governor was to be selected by the legislature rather than voted on by the people. The actual power, therefore, was in the hands of twelve lawmakers from the legislature who served as an executive council. The executive council could accept or reject any proposals initiated by the governor. The constitutional convention selected John Treutlen, a Salzburger.

What were the main weaknesses of the Georgia Constitution of 1777?

What were the reasons for Georgia's first constitution limiting the power of the governor?