

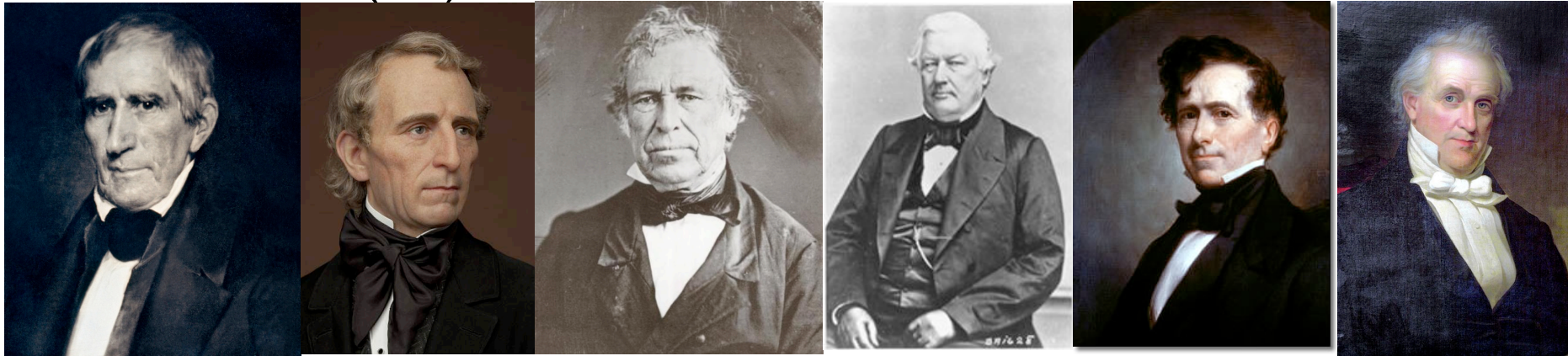
**“A house divided against itself cannot stand.** I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. **It will become all one thing or all the other.**”

*Abraham Lincoln, "A House Divided", 1858*

## Short-Term Causes of the Civil War

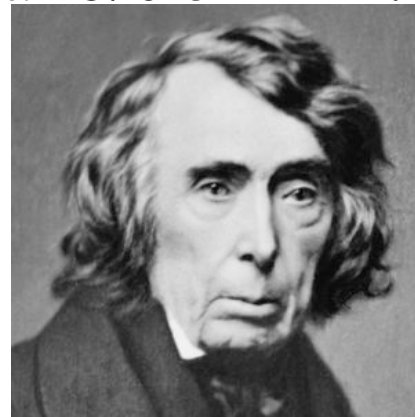
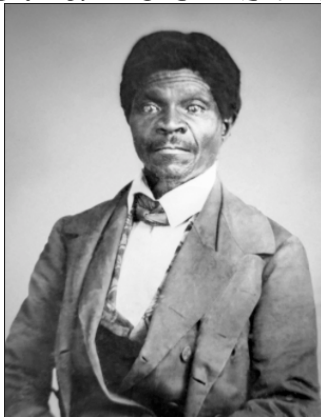
# Some Lackluster Leadership

- Van Buren (D) – 1837-1841 – Short!
- Harrison (W) – 1841 – Dies!
- Tyler (W) – 1841-1845 – Lots ‘o Children!
- Polk (D) – 1845-49 – Napoleon of the Stump!
- Taylor (W)– 1849-50 – Dies!
- Fillmore (W) – 1850-53 – Bathtub!
- Pierce (D) - 1853-1857 – New Hampshire!
- Buchanan (D) – 1857-1861 – Bachelor!



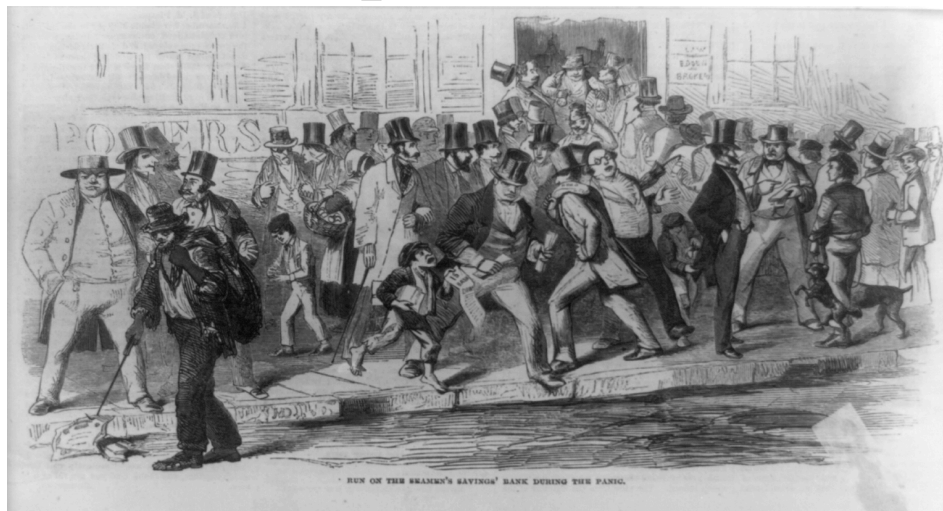
# **Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857)**

- **Dred Scott** was a slave who had lived in MO, WI & IL before moving back to MO → Sues for freedom
- Starts legal battle in 1846 → SCOMO rejects in '52
- 1854 – Revisited & elevated to SCOTUS in '57
  - Does Constitution give slaves right to sue? Was Missouri Compromise constitutional?
- 5-4 (5 Justices from slave states) that Scott isn't a citizen & doesn't have the right to sue. Property.
  - MO Comp. unconstitutional b/c 5<sup>th</sup> Am. property interp.



# Panic of 1857

- Life insurance co. fails → foreclosures, bankruptcies, unemployment throughout North → 2-yr. depression
  - RR investment & real estate speculation to be near RRs
- New gold & ↓ value of wheat; only cotton stable
- South: Fine. Slavery better than “wage slaves” in N.
- North: Blames South for low tariffs → manufacturers & workers became Republicans



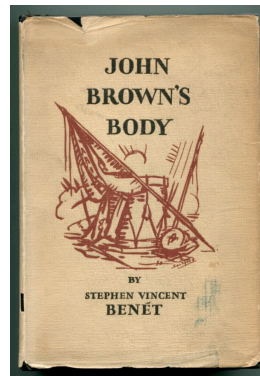
# Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858)

- Douglas & Buchanan broke Dems in 1858 over Lecompton Constitution
- Douglas challenged in IL Senate race by **Abraham Lincoln**, who thought Congress should decide to prohibit slavery instead of popular sovereignty
  - Lincoln did not believe in socio-political equality for blacks, just the end of slavery
- Lincoln wins debates, but Douglas wins
  - Will never be president b/c of his alienation of Northern anti-slavery & Southern slaveholding factions
  - Republicans take House → rebuke to Buchanan



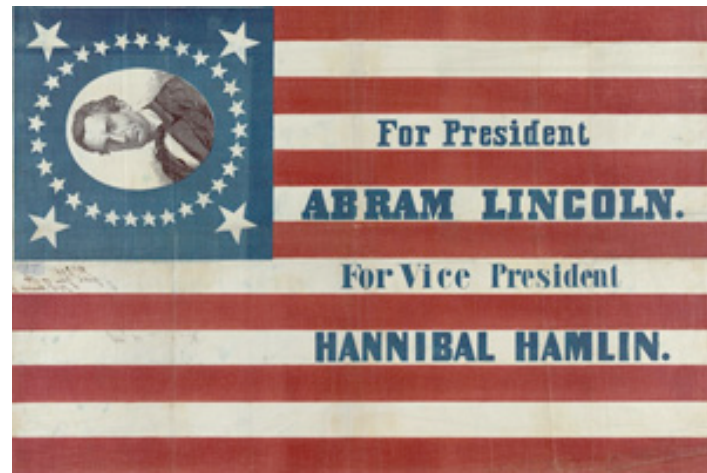
# John Brown's Raid (1859)

- **Harper's Ferry, VA** – Occupied federal arsenal & took 40 hostages
  - Marines sent w/ Col. **Robert E. Lee** capture Brown
  - Chose self-defense → evidence he intended to raise a slave insurrection
- Charged with treason & hanged.
  - Terrorist? Insane? Martyr?
- South: Incensed with any positive mention; fear of slave insurrections & midnight assassinations
- North: Generally did not support Brown, but some did



# Election of 1860

- Northern Dems – Douglas – Split w/ Southern Dems over slavery in national platform
- Republicans – Lincoln – Contain slavery, condemn Brown, increase tariff, RR bill, homestead bills
- Constitutional Union – John Bell – Stop secession
- Southern Dems – John Breckinridge – “A vote for Lincoln is a vote for secession”
- Lincoln wins! – South saw slavery decisions could be made without them.



# Secession

- **STAMPP** – “Orderly, rather than revolutionary”
- 12/18/1860 – **Crittenden Compromise** → Blocked.
  - Protect new territory under MO Comp. line (Caribbean)
  - Federal Slave Code w/ no personal liberty laws
  - Constitutional amendments w/ “unamendable” slavery
- Feb. **Peace Conference** in DC → Also failure.
- 12/20/1860 – SC Secedes.
- 2/7/1861 – **Confederate States of America** born.

