



Abraham Lincoln



The American Civil War



Jefferson Davis

The Southern states were a largely agricultural community with the principle crop being cotton. Before the Civil War this accounted for nearly 60% of US exports. More than three and a half million black slaves provided much of the labour.

The Northern states by contrast had many large towns and cities with emerging industries and a farming system geared towards food production in which slaves were not used. Following legislation passed in 1854, the settlers of new territories to the west could themselves decide whether to allow slavery, but many chose not to. The Leaders of the Southern states felt their way of life was threatened. In February, 1861, representatives of the southern states met to form a new nation - The Confederate States of America led by Jefferson Davis.

Despite the Union belief of an early victory, the lack of distinguished Union generals, and an inability to use the army's full strength led to early Union defeats by the Confederate Army.

The South by contrast had many Generals who were excellent strategists. Amongst the best were General 'Stonewall' Jackson and Robert E. Lee.



The capital chosen for the Confederate States was Richmond, Virginia, which was only 100 miles from the Northern states capital of Washington D.C.

The high losses took their toll on the Confederate Army and at Appomattox they were outnumbered 5 to 1 by the assembled Union troops. On the afternoon of Sunday April 9th, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army of Northern Virginia to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. By the end of May virtually all of the south's troops had laid down their arms.

On April 12th, 1861 the first show of the war was fired by the Confederate State Army in an attempt to seize the Union held Fort Sumter at Charleston harbor, South Carolina.

Why not take a step back in time to visit the Homesteaders camp. The group authentically recreate living conditions of those on the home front in the Southern states of 1860's America. You will be made most welcome.



Southern Homesteaders