#### **Compromises Fail**

#### **Background Information**

In 1820 Henry Clay earned himself the nickname the Great Compromiser by persuading congress to admit Maine into the Union as a free state and Missouri as a slave state. The compromise provided that the Louisiana territory north of Missouri would be free. The compromise also gave southern slave owners the right to pursue escaped <u>fugitives</u>.

The compromise kept both <u>slave</u> and <u>free</u> states content until 1848 when the United Stated gained more <u>territory</u> by the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe- Hidalgo (which ended the Mexican-American War). The question of the territory entering the <u>Union</u> as free or slave states was being asked again.

People like <u>David Wilmot</u> and the newly formed <u>Free Soil Party</u> thought that Congress should ban <u>slavery</u> in all territory that became a part of the United States as a result of the Mexican-American War. Others like <u>Lewis Cass</u> suggested letting the people in each new territory or state decide for themselves by popular sovereignty whether to <u>allow</u> slavery.

In 1850 <u>Henry Clay</u> made a series of proposals that spurred one of the greatest <u>debates</u> in American history. John C. Calhoun, a senator of South Carolina and great supporter of states rights, debated <u>Daniel</u> <u>Webster</u>, senator of Massachusetts and supporter of Henry Clay...

# Compromise of 1850

In September 1850 a series of <u>bills</u> were passed based on Henry Clay's proposals.

1. California entered the Union as a free state

2. Slave <u>trade</u> in Washington D.C. was <u>banned</u>

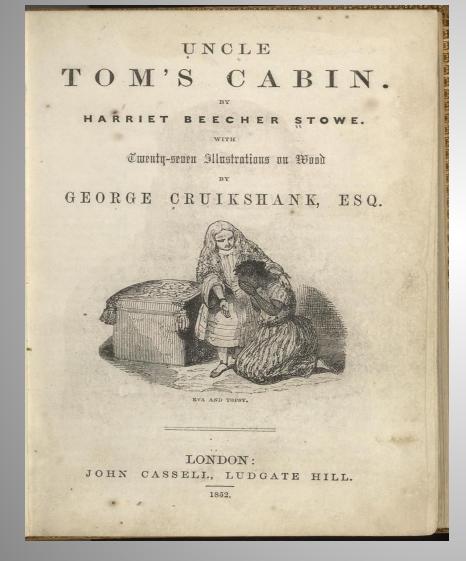
3. Popular <u>sovereignty</u> was used to decide the question of <u>slavery</u> in the rest of the Mexican <u>cession</u>

4. <u>Fugitive Slave Act</u> of 1850allowed special government officials to <u>arrest</u> any person accused of being a runaway <u>slave</u>.

John C. Calhoun thought the Fugitive Slave Act would <u>force</u> northerners to admit that slaveholders had rights to their <u>property</u>, but instead it <u>convinced</u> more <u>northerners</u> that slavery was <u>evil</u>.

Free State

### Uncle Tom's Cabin



Harriet Beecher Stowe, the daughter of an abolitionists minister, was very disturbed by the Fugitive Slave Law. She wrote a fictional novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, about the ills of slavery in the south. The novel shocked many people who previously unconcerned with slavery. Southern critics said it was just propaganda: false or misleading information that is spread to further cause.

### The Kansas Nebraska Act

Senator <u>Stephen</u> <u>Douglas</u> was eager to develop lands of current day Kansas and Nebraska to build railroads through to the pacific ocean. Knowing southerners feared this territory would become free territory he proposed that it be decided through popular sovereignty. Even though this proposal undid the Missouri Compromise congress passed it anyway. It became the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

## **Bleeding Kansas**

Both <u>proslavery</u> and <u>antislavery</u> citizens moved into the <u>Kansas</u> area. The people could not <u>agree</u> on <u>legislature</u> so Kansas basically had two governments. <u>Violence</u> inevitably broke out. A proslavery sheriff was <u>shot</u> by antislavery settlers when trying to <u>arrest</u> them in the town of Lawrence. He returned with 800 men and <u>attacked</u> the town. John Brown and antislavery followers <u>murdered</u> five proslavery men at <u>Pottawatomie Creek</u>. The <u>violence</u> was <u>widespread</u> through Kansas.



http://teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/section alism/lesson3/

### Violence in the Senate

Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, a leading abolitionist, denounced the proslavery legislature in Kansas. In his speech he attacked his southern foes singling out Andrew Butler, who was not there at the time. Later Butler got news of the speech. Butler's nephew beat Sumner to death with a cane.