

## CHAPTER 13 TO RAISE SOMETHING FOR SALE

- A. Introduction. In the years after the American Revolution, South Carolina's planters and farmers deserted one of their old cash crops, indigo. With the invention of the cotton gin, cotton replaced indigo. As cotton production spread across the state, it carried with it the plantation and slavery. Once thought to be a dying institution, slavery was rejuvenated by cotton culture and spread not only westward to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, but south and west to what we now refer to as "The Deep South."
- B. Rice
1. Rice production increased during the antebellum period all along the state's tidal rivers.
  2. Land holdings increased as more successful planters bought out the smaller holdings of their neighbors.
  3. Georgetown County became the center of rice culture in South Carolina.
    - a. Some of the wealthiest men in the United States lived in the county.
    - b. The county also had one of the heaviest concentrations of black population of any in the state.
- C. Cotton
1. Cotton seemed to be a gift from heaven to former indigo planters.
  2. Along the coast, sea island (also called black seed and long staple) cotton was grown successfully.
  3. Upland (also called green seed or short staple) cotton could be grown almost anywhere, but the difficulty in separating the seeds from the cotton fiber by hand made large scale production impossible.
  4. The 1793 invention of the cotton gin made it possible to separate the seed from the fibers quickly and easily.
  5. Within a decade, cotton production had swept across South Carolina.

**\*D. King Cotton**

- \*1. Because of cotton production, many South Carolinians abandoned other crops to plant more cotton.**
- \*2. Cotton is a plant that leeches nutrients from the soil, so after a few years farmers and planters simply abandoned their cotton fields and cleared new ones.**
- \*3. In 1820, South Carolina was the leading cotton producing state in the nation.**

**E. Business and Industry**

- 1. South Carolina was primarily an agricultural state.
- 2. Despite the tremendous amount of cotton grown in South Carolina, there were not many textile mills.
  - a. William Gregg's Graniteville Mills was the most successful textile operation in the antebellum period.
  - b. Mostly white labor was used in the mills.
  - c. In 1860, there were only 17 textile mills in the state.

**F. The Planting Ideal**

- 1. Antebellum South Carolinians developed the idea that planting was the only proper vocation for a gentleman.
- 2. No matter how much money a person made in trade or manufacturing, he was looked down on.
- 3. John C. Calhoun vocally opposed the development of industry in South Carolina because he saw it as a threat to the state's way of life.
  - a. He argued that manufacturers would want protective tariffs which would hurt planters and farmers.
  - b. A free white labor force, he said, would be opposed to the institution of slavery.
- 4. Because of attitudes, would be manufacturers had a difficult time raising the necessary capital for plants and machinery.

5. The General Assembly, dominated by the planting elite, did what it could to discourage manufacturing by not passing a general incorporation law until 1847.

#### G. Transportation

1. South Carolina's river systems, while suitable for coastal trade, were not suitable for tapping the rich cotton lands of the piedmont.
2. While the elite opposed manufacturing and industry, they supported the development of transportation networks that would help them get their crops to market.
  - \*a. **Like other states, South Carolina turned first to canals and by 1827 boasted that every district of the state (except Greenville) could be reached by boat!**
  - \*b. **When the Charleston and Hamburg Railroad was completed in 1833, it was the longest railroad in the world.**
  - \*c. **The state also funded a system of state toll roads, but they weren't successful.**
  - \*d. **By 1860, most major towns in South Carolina were linked by railroad, but the longed for link with the Midwest, the Blue Ridge Railroad, was never completed.**

#### \*H. Outmigration

- \*1. **Between 1820 and 1860, thousands of South Carolinians left the state.**
  - \*a. **Farmers and planters left for the better lands of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.**
  - \*b. **Businessmen found better opportunities in Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans.**
  - \*c. **According to the 1860 census, 40% of the individuals who listed South Carolina as their birthplace lived elsewhere.**
- \*2. **South Carolinians abandoned the state in droves and few newcomers took their places.**

**\*3. Because of out-migration and almost no in-migration, South Carolina went from having the largest population of any state in the Deep South to ranking ahead of only Arkansas and Florida in 1860.**

I. Summary. The development of cotton as a cash crop in South Carolina was a two edged sword. While cotton brought good money on the world market, it butchered the land and encouraged the abandonment of other crops. The planting ideal that came to be accepted by most antebellum South Carolinians discouraged the development of manufacturing and industry. As in the colonial period, when profits were made, they were invested in more land and slaves. The outmigration of South Carolinians had a twofold effect: (1) many of the state's "best and brightest" left the state and went elsewhere and (2) South Carolina planters carried with them the Barbadian/South Carolina model of plantation slavery. South Carolinians had considerable influence on the development of "the Cotton Kingdom."

J. Readings

1. Edgar, South Carolina, Chapter 13.
1. Blum, Catton, The National Experience, pp. 203-210
2. Coclanis, The Shadow of a Dream, pp. 111-136
3. Ford, Origins of Upcountry Radicalism, pp. 5-96
4. Horne, South Carolina, 215-217, 223-233, 268-275
5. Jones, South Carolina, pp. 348-362, 376-377, 380-383, 413-416, 419-424
6. Kovacik & Winiberry, South Carolina, pp. 87-102
7. Rogers, Georgetown County, pp. 252-303, 324-341
8. Tindall, America, pp. 426-450, 537-547