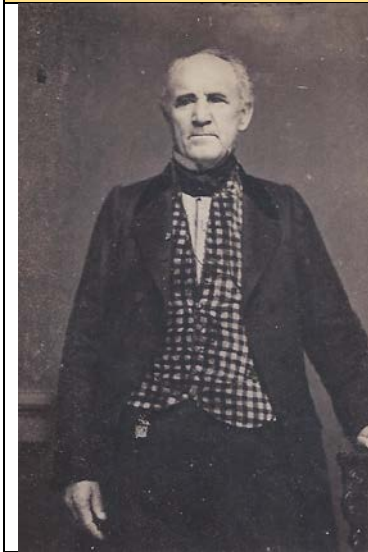


Chapter 306 – Tensions Rise In Charleston And The Secession Count Rises To Seven States



Dates:
February 1, 1860

Sections:

- One Chapter Closes And Another Re-Opens
- John Dix Puts Down Another "Threat To The Flag Texas Becomes The Seventh State To Secede

Date: January 28-31, 1861

One Chapter Closes And Another Re-Opens

Two days after Kansas is admitted, Buchanan's current crisis intensifies as the messenger from South Carolina, Isaac Hayne, finally hands him the delayed letter from Governor Francis Pickens regarding the situation in Charleston harbor.

In it, Pickens demands that Major Anderson abandons Ft. Sumter, and offers to buy it from the United States government!

Buchanan is taken aback by the proposal and intends to tell Hayne that Presidents have no authority to sell property. But before he can do that, both "messengers" – AG. Hayne and Lt. Hall – have departed for Charleston.

But this latest exchange signals the end of the momentary pause created by Major Anderson.

Date: January 29, 1861

John Dix Puts Down Another "Threat To The Flag



John Dix (1798-1879)

On top of that, another potential military flashpoint surfaces at the end of January.

This one involves John Dix, who is only two weeks into his new job as Buchanan’s Treasury Secretary.

On January 29, 1860 Dix receives a telegraph message saying that secessionist forces are threatening a U.S. revenue ship around the port of New Orleans – and that the captain seems to be putting up little resistance.

Dix responds with the fighting zeal that marked his earlier years in the army.

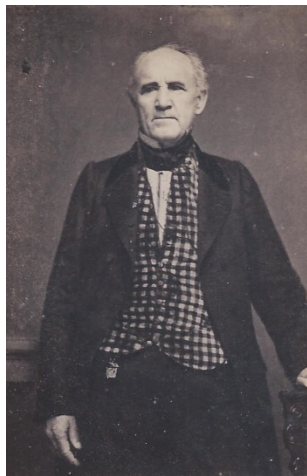
He sends an unequivocal order to a still-thought-to-be loyal lieutenant aboard the cutter:

If anyone attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot.

This quote is quickly picked up by the nation’s 3,000 newspapers, making Dix an overnight hero across the North. Like “Old Bob” Anderson at Sumter, Dix is ready to stand tall in support of the flag.

Date: February 1, 1861

Texas Becomes The Seventh State To Secede



Sam Houston (1793-1863)

Preparations for warfare in Charleston harbor continue unabated following the January 9 attack on the *Star of the West*.

Governor Pickens is told that any attempt to storm Ft. Sumter would involve heavy casualties for his South Carolina units. Thus the better option: ring the fort and starve out its occupants in siege mode.

If firepower becomes necessary, the battery on Cummings Point, only 1350 yards south of the fort, will be called upon to lead the way.

Inside Sumter, Major Anderson continues to reconfigure his artillery in order to fire at an enemy to his back and sides rather than out to sea.

He will eventually manage to re-rig a total of 51 cannons in this fashion. Included among them are three massive 10” Columbiads, each weighting 15,000 lbs., each capable of hurling a 128 lb. shell over 4,800 yards. After assessing how best to deploy these ship killers, Anderson converts them into faux mortars aimed at his nearby adversaries.

Distances From Ft. Sumter To Batteries At:

	Cummings Point	Ft. Moultrie	Ft. Johnson	Castle Pinckney
Yards	1,350	1,800	2,300	4,500

On February 1, 1861, Anderson pauses to take care of one more duty. He requests, and is granted, access to a boat that carries the 42 women and children at his fort back to safety in Charleston.

That same day, another departure takes place, as Texas becomes the seventh state to secede. The move is strongly opposed by Senator Sam Houston, but it passes by a resounding 168-8 margin.

Secession Timing

1860	States
December 20	South Carolina
1861	
January 9	Mississippi
January 10	Florida
January 11	Alabama
January 19	Georgia
January 26	Louisiana
February 1	Texas