**Mexican-American War**

**-**fought over Texas border dispute

-gave US western territories including California

**Compromise of 1850**

-California asked to be admitted to Union as a free state

-this would have upset the balance of slave and free states

-the Compromise was a way to settle disagreements over slavery

-CA admitted as a free state

-Utah and Mexico territory could decide whether or not they would allow slavery

-Fugitive Slave Act required northern people to help return run-away slaves; became illegal to help slaves escape

-ignored at times like Christiana Rebellion

**Kansas-Nebraska Act** allowed Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether or not to allow slavery

**Dred Scott decision**

-Dred Scott was born in a slave state but taken to a free state by his master

-he sued for freedom since he had been in a free state

-US Supreme Court ruled against him

-as a black, didn’t have the rights of the Constitution

-slaves were property protected under the Constitution, even if in a free state

-basically made Missouri Compromise unconstitutional

**Underground RR**

-a system to help slaves escape

-Levi Coffin, a Quaker, was one of the main leaders

-after Fugitive Slave Law, it helped slaves to Canada

-at least 50,000 slaves escaped this way

**Rise of Republican Party**

**-**came about because of stand against slavery

-first convention held in Philadelphia, but didn’t control the state

-Democrat James Buchanan elected in 1856

-Republicans nominated Lincoln in 1860

**People**

**David Wilmot**: Wilmot Proviso: proposed that slavery be banned in area gotten from Mexico; helped establish the Republican party

**Martin Delany:** Pittsburg doctor; published newspaper about the rights of Negroes and women; active in Underground RR; tried to find a place for African Americans in Africa; first Negro to have high rank in Army

**William Still**: clerk of the PA Anti-Slavery Society; helped more than 100 slaves escape every year; kept records and later wrote book of Underground RR

**James Buchanan**: only President from PA; only bachelor President; supported Democratic party; thought slavery wrong but felt US government needed to protect rights of slavery; President when South seceded

**Simon Cameron**: PA state printer; worked for transportation in provements; Senator:; Secretary of War under Lincoln; corrupt