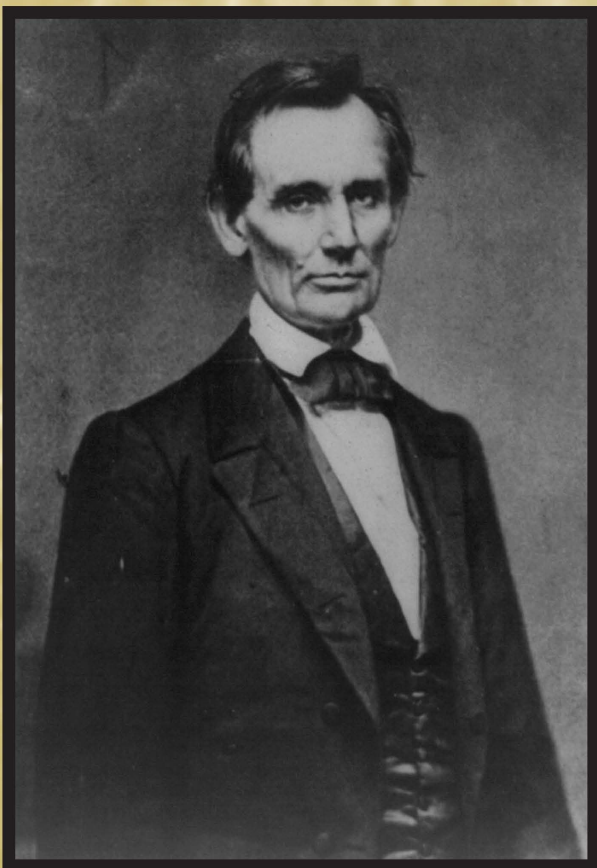


THE GATHERING STORM

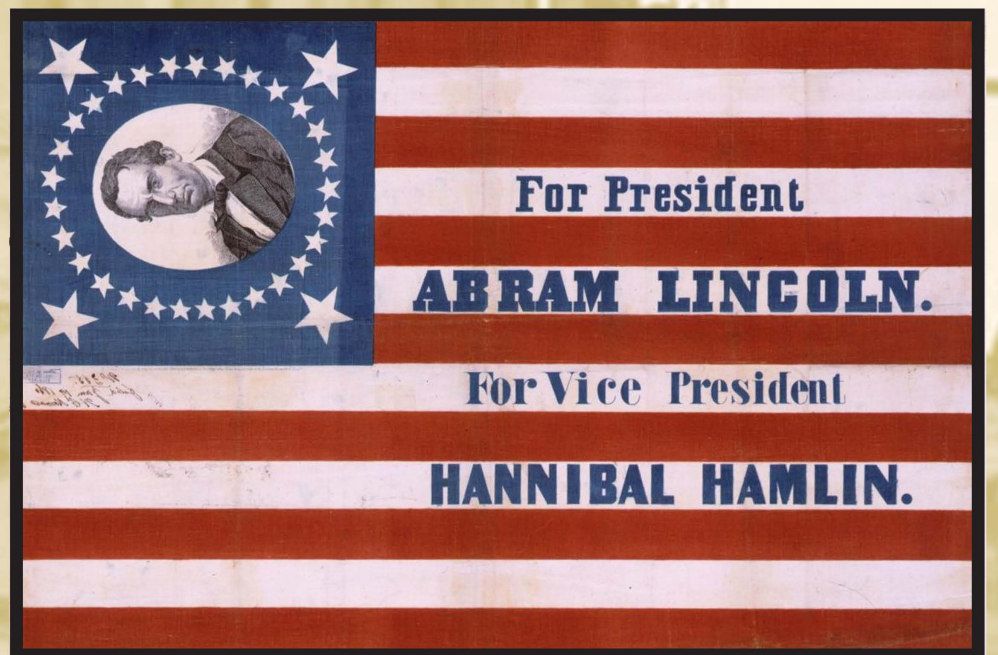
IMAGES OF AMERICA ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Election of 1860

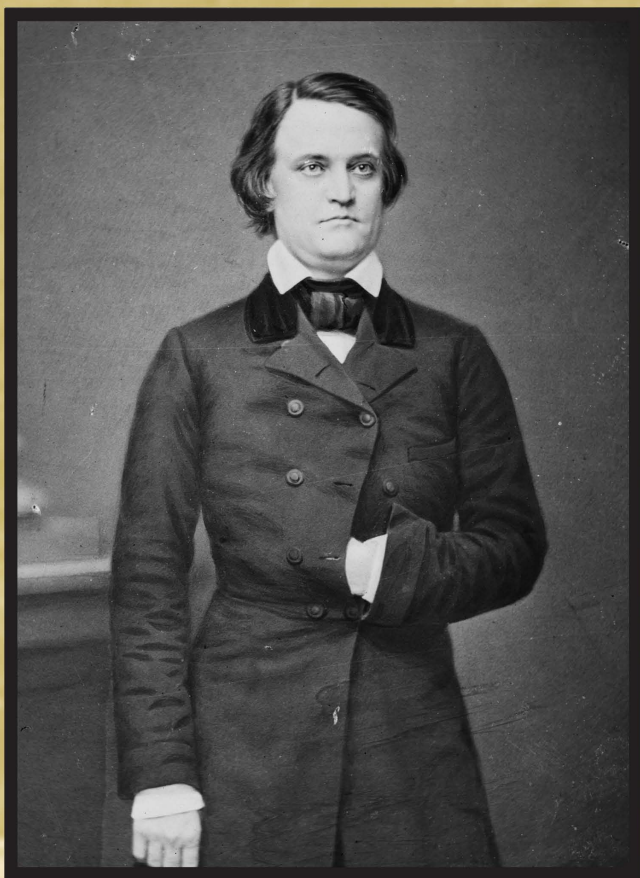
In 1860, Abraham Lincoln completed his rise from relative obscurity by capturing the Republican Party's nomination for president. His skill as an orator had captivated the North, while his views on slavery had infuriated the South. Lincoln's path to the White House was cleared by the discordant Democratic Party, whose northern and southern factions could not agree on a candidate. Stephen A. Douglas ran as the candidate of the Northern Democrats and John C. Breckinridge ran as the candidate of the Southern Democrats, while a third party candidate, John Bell, further complicated matters. Fewer than four in 10 Americans voted for Abraham Lincoln in November 1860 — he wasn't even on the ballot in nine Southern states — but it was enough to win. Lincoln carried eighteen of thirty-three states, sweeping Northern population centers, and won 180 of the 303 electoral votes. His election outraged the South and triggered the Secession Winter.



Lincoln was photographed at Brady's New York studio on the same day of his famous Cooper Union speech, during his first visit to New York City in February 1860. Both the speech and the photo would help propel him to the presidency. *Library of Congress*



Campaign buttons and banners, such as this one for Lincoln, often included imagery, either a photograph or an engraving. *Library of Congress*



John C. Breckinridge, the candidate for the Southern Democrats, carried the South and was second in electoral votes, but finished third in the popular vote with 18.1 percent. *Library of Congress*



When Lincoln took the oath of office as 16th president of the United States, below the unfinished dome of the Capitol building, on March 4, 1861, the seven states of the Deep South had already seceded. *Library of Congress*