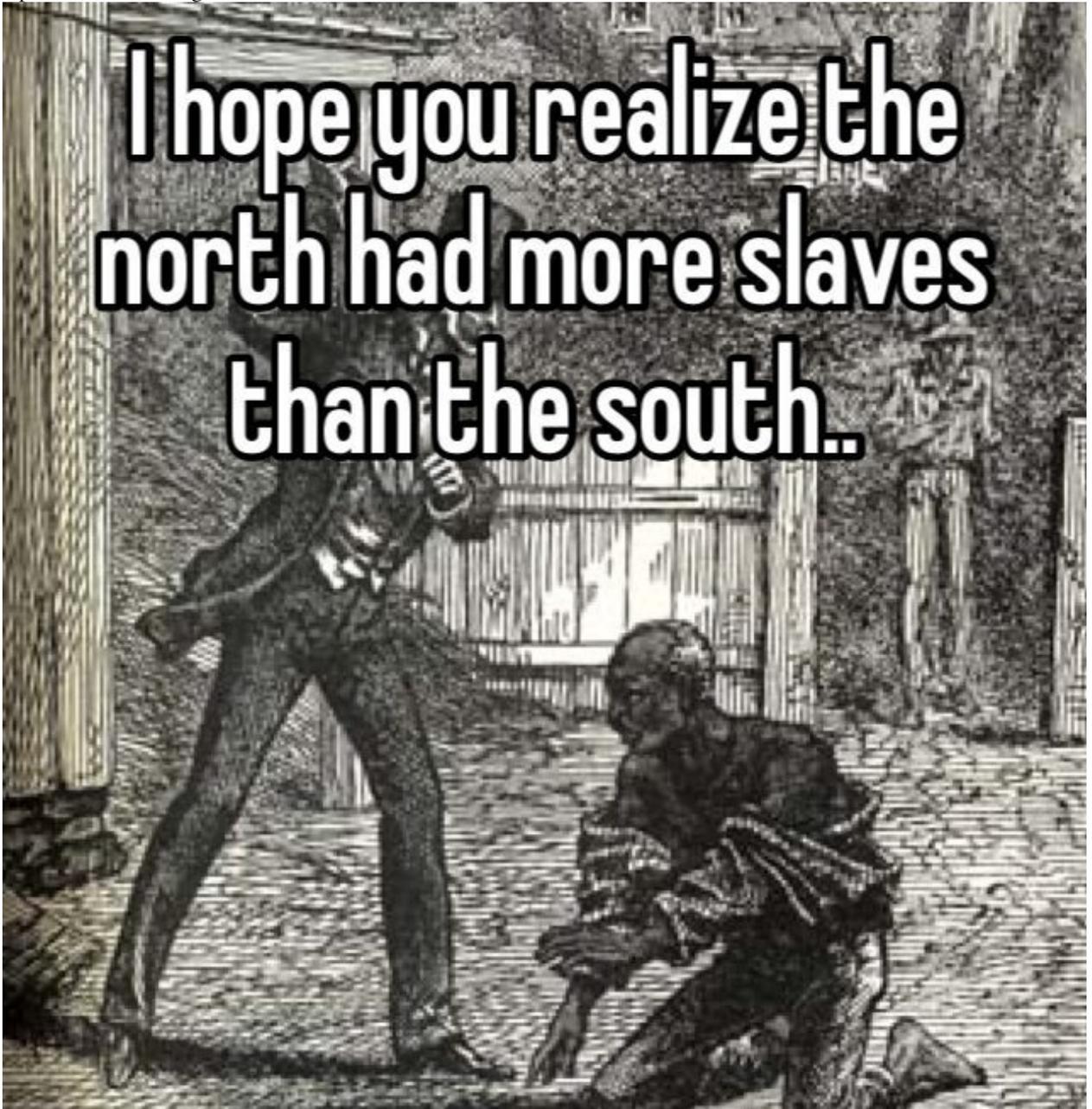


Slavery in the North Compared to the South

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Slavery in the North Compared to the South

As you can tell, this image makes the claims about slavery, that the *North* (in the terms of the [Civil War](#) Era, the “North” referred to non-slave states) having more slaves than the *South* (again, in Civil War terms, slave holding states) At the time of the Civil War you also had the *Border States* which were slave holding states that chose not to secede from the Union (either by vote, or by force) they were considered southern

states because of the above mentioned terms. Obviously, when you compare them in Civil War Era terminology, this whole meme is self defeating.

Summary:

Slavery was never as big in the North as in the South, from the 1790 Census until the 1860 Census

I'm a History nerd, I love History, and with all of the talk about the Confederacy lately due to some mentally ill guy shooting people while taking pictures of himself with the Confederate Battle Flag, there has been a lot of misinformation about the flags, the Civil War, and slavery. So as part of my Civil War series, which started with my post about the [History of the Confederate Flags](#) I'm going to make my second article about this myth, which I have seen a lot of people claiming on Social Media.

By 1804 all northern states had passed laws at least gradually abolishing slavery, which you can see evidence of with the number of slaves declining in the northern states over each Census Report. Prior to the Civil War and Abolition of Slavery in 1865, one northern state (NJ with 18) and two Territories that supported the North in the War (Nebraska with 15 and Kansas with 2) were the last 35 slaves in the North.

But, this meme also doesn't specify, even though historical terminology makes the assumption, that it means civil war era. The US Census started in 1790, and Slavery was abolished in between the 1860 and 1870 Census, so you can only compare every ten year census ranging from 1790, until 1860, just before the start of the war.

All Census data used here is taken from the University of Virginia Historical Census Browser [\[1\]](#) which gets it's data from the original [US Census Reports](#).

1790 Census

In 1790, there were 13 States and three territories, the Slave Population of each state is listed below along with the total population. New York, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, were considered the North, and North and South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Delaware were considered the South:

1790	Total Slaves
CONNECTICUT	2,648
DELAWARE	8,887
GEORGIA	29,264
KENTUCKY (territory)	12,430
MAINE (territory)	0
MARYLAND	103,036
MASSACHUSETTS	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	157
NEW JERSEY	11,423
NEW YORK	21,193
NORTH CAROLINA	100,783
PENNSYLVANIA	3,707

RHODE ISLAND	958
SOUTH CAROLINA	107,094
VERMONT (territory)	0
VIRGINIA	292,627
US Total	694,207
North	South
39,128	654,121

1800 Census

The only changes from the 1790 to the 1800 Census was that Kentucky and Vermont are now states, and Tennessee has joined the South.

1800	Total Slaves
CONNECTICUT	951
DELAWARE	6,153
GEORGIA	59,699
KENTUCKY	40,343
MAINE (territory)	0
MARYLAND	105,635
MASSACHUSETTS	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	8
NEW JERSEY	12,422
NEW YORK	20,613
NORTH CAROLINA	133,296
PENNSYLVANIA	1,706
RHODE ISLAND	380
SOUTH CAROLINA	146,151
TENNESSEE	13,584
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	346,671
US Total	887,612
North	South
36,080	851,532

1810 Census

Between the last two Census reports, Ohio has joined the union as a free northern state.

1810	Total Slaves
CONNECTICUT	310
DELAWARE	4,177
GEORGIA	105,218
KENTUCKY	80,561
MAINE (territory)	0
MARYLAND	111,502
MASSACHUSETTS	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0
NEW JERSEY	10,851
NEW YORK	15,017
NORTH CAROLINA	168,824
OHIO	0
PENNSYLVANIA	795
RHODE ISLAND	108
SOUTH CAROLINA	196,365
TENNESSEE	44,535
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	392,518
US Total	1130781
North	South
27,081	1,103,700

1820 Census

Between the last two Census Reports Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri (a territory still) have joined the South, and Illinois and Indiana have joined the North.

1820	Total Slaves
ALABAMA	47,449

CONNECTICUT	97
DELAWARE	4,509
GEORGIA	149,656
ILLINOIS	917
INDIANA	190
KENTUCKY	126,732
LOUISIANA	69,064
MAINE	0
MARYLAND	107,398
MASSACHUSETTS	0
MISSISSIPPI	32,814
MISSOURI (territory)	10,222
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0
NEW JERSEY	7,557
NEW YORK	10,088
NORTH CAROLINA	205,017
OHIO	0
PENNSYLVANIA	211
RHODE ISLAND	48
SOUTH CAROLINA	251,783
TENNESSEE	80,107
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	425,153
US Total	1,529,012
North	South
19,108	1,509,904

1830 Census

From the 1820, until the 1830 Census we have Arkansas and Michigan becoming territories, and Missouri and Maine are now states as part of the 1820 Compromise

1830	Total Slaves
ALABAMA	117,549
ARKANSAS (territory)	4,576
CONNECTICUT	25
DELAWARE	3,292

GEORGIA	217,531
ILLINOIS	747
INDIANA	3
KENTUCKY	165,213
LOUISIANA	109,588
MAINE	2
MARYLAND	102,994
MASSACHUSETTS	1
MICHIGAN (territory)	32
MISSISSIPPI	65,659
MISSOURI	25,096
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3
NEW JERSEY	2,254
NEW YORK	75
NORTH CAROLINA	245,601
OHIO	6
PENNSYLVANIA	403
RHODE ISLAND	17
SOUTH CAROLINA	315,401
TENNESSEE	141,603
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	469,757
US Total	1,987,428
North	South
3,568	1,983,860

1840 Census

From 1830 to 1840 we added Florida, Iowa, and Wisconsin as Territories.

1840	Total Slaves
ALABAMA	253,532
ARKANSAS	19,935
CONNECTICUT	54
DELAWARE	2,605
FLORIDA (territory)	25,717

GEORGIA	280,944
ILLINOIS	331
INDIANA	3
IOWA (territory)	16
KENTUCKY	182,258
LOUISIANA	168,452
MAINE	0
MARYLAND	89,737
MASSACHUSETTS	0
MICHIGAN	0
MISSISSIPPI	195,211
MISSOURI	58,240
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1
NEW JERSEY	674
NEW YORK	4
NORTH CAROLINA	245,817
OHIO	3
PENNSYLVANIA	64
RHODE ISLAND	5
SOUTH CAROLINA	327,038
TENNESSEE	183,059
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	449,087
WISCONSIN (territory)	11
US Total	2,482,798
North	South
1155	2,481,643

1850 Census

From 1840 until 1850 Minnesota joined as a territory and California joined as a northern state, and Texas joined as a southern state, Florida, Iowa, and Wisconsin are now states.

1850	Total Slaves
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ALABAMA	342,844
ARKANSAS	47,100
CALIFORNIA	0
CONNECTICUT	0
DELAWARE	2,290
FLORIDA	39,310
GEORGIA	381,682
ILLINOIS	0
INDIANA	0
IOWA	0
KENTUCKY	210,981
LOUISIANA	244,809
MAINE	0
MARYLAND	90,368
MASSACHUSETTS	0
MICHIGAN	0
MINNESOTA (territory)	0
MISSISSIPPI	309,878
MISSOURI	87,422
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0
NEW JERSEY	236
NEW YORK	0
NORTH CAROLINA	288,548
OHIO	0
PENNSYLVANIA	0
RHODE ISLAND	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	384,984
TENNESSEE	239,459
TEXAS	58,161
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	472,528
WISCONSIN	0
US Total	3,200,600
North	South
236	3,200,364

1860 Census

From 1850 until 1860 Kansas, Nevada, and Nebraska joined as territories, Minnesota became a state, and Oregon joined as a state.

1860	Total Slaves
ALABAMA	435,080
ARKANSAS	111,115
CALIFORNIA	0
CONNECTICUT	0
DELAWARE	1,798
FLORIDA	61,745
GEORGIA	462,198
ILLINOIS	0
INDIANA	0
IOWA	0
KANSAS (territory)	2
KENTUCKY	225,483
LOUISIANA	331,726
MAINE	0
MARYLAND	87,189
MASSACHUSETTS	0
MICHIGAN	0
MINNESOTA	0
MISSISSIPPI	436,631
MISSOURI	114,931
NEBRASKA (territory)	15
NEVADA (territory)	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0
NEW JERSEY	18
NEW YORK	0
NORTH CAROLINA	331,059
OHIO	0
OREGON	0
PENNSYLVANIA	0
RHODE ISLAND	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	402,406
TENNESSEE	275,719

TEXAS	182,566
VERMONT	0
VIRGINIA	490,865
WISCONSIN	0
US Total	3,950,546
North	South
35	3,950,511

References

[1] [University of Virginia Library – Historical Census Browser](#)