

## Little Dixie's Slave Majority Areas

1. Little Dixie – extensive use of slaves in commercial production of hemp and tobacco – defined Little Dixie as a distinctive region
2. 7 counties along Missouri: Clay, Lafayette, Saline, Cooper, Howard, Boone Callaway, slave population of 24% in 1850. In 1860 are had a 28.8% population of slaves
3. This Missouri Slave Belt was great distance from major slave populations of South, north of entire Confederacy, except for 3 counties in Virginia. 30 to 40 miles south of an extension of Mason-Dixon Line, north of line from Washington, D.C., quite far west over 100 miles west of Mississippi. Closer to Kansas, Iowa and Illinois. South in Ozark Plateau few slaves lived.
4. “Slavery in western Missouri was like slavery in northern Kentucky –much more a domestic than a commercial institution. Family servants constituted the bulk of ownership, and few families owned more than one family of blacks. The social habits were those of the farm and not the plantation. The white owner, with his sons, labored in the same fields with the negroes both old and young.”
5. Within Missouri Slave Belt – institution was commercial; aver Little Dixie slaveholder owned 6.1 slaves, only 4% of Little Dixie slaveowners qualified as planters with at least five hundred acres and 20 slaves. Overseers were rare, only 256 in whole state. Slave Belt was exception where there were 28 in 4 Lafayette County townships.
6. Also produced feed grains and livestock; pork, beef & grain shipped from Little Dixie, locally raised horses, mules and oxen sold to persons travelling overland to far west. Did develop agricultural specialty of mules more typical of South than Midwest
  - a. Had been brought by early traders in the Santa Fe Trail in 1821 & 1822
  - b. Settlers from Kentucky brought jacks and jennets
  - c. Mule production centered in Little Dixie and nearby counties
  - d. Remained economically important until about end of WWII
7. Little Dixie before the Civil War remained a society with slaves and never a slave society
  - a. Slave/master relationship didn't provide model for all social relationships characteristic of a slave society
  - b. Planters made up a relatively small portion of population in Lafayette, Saline & Howard Counties
  - c. Slave-based economy only short time leading up to Civil War