

TWO MOMENTOUS DECADES – THE 1840s and 1850s

A BRIEF TIMELINE

- 1840 William Henry Harrison elected
- 1841 March 4, Harrison inaugurated; April 4, Harrison dies, John Tyler becomes President
- 1844 James K. Polk elected as 11th President
- 1845 Tyler convinces Congress to annex Republic of Texas weeks before he leaves office
- 1846-48 Mexican War
- 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo ends the war
- 1848 Zachary Taylor elected as 12th President
- 1850 Taylor dies, Millard Fillmore becomes President; Compromise of 1850
- 1852 Franklin Pierce elected as 14th President
- 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act
- 1854-57 Bleeding Kansas
- 1856 Demise of the Whig Party; birth of the Republicans
- 1856 James Buchanan elected as 15th President
- 1857 Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision
- 1859 John Brown's raid on the federal armory at Harper's Ferry
- 1860 Democratic party splits into two factions; Abraham Lincoln elected as 16th President