

From the newspaper:

Harper's Weekly

April 13 – Rebel troops from South Carolina fired upon Fort Sumter, a small federal fort located in the Charleston, South Carolina, harbor. The newly formed Confederate States of America Army viciously attacked Fort Sumter, presently under the command of Major Richard Anderson. At the moment, no one is sure how long the fort can remain under federal control. While still trying to be optimistic, many observers believe that the fort cannot hold out for long. There was no immediate information on how many dead or wounded soldiers there were on either side.

Yesterday's actions are the result of a growing tension between the Union and the former state South Carolina. Last December, in a rash decision, the state of South Carolina adopted the Ordinance of Secession. This document is a declaration that the state no longer wants to be part of the United States of America. Hopefully, this action will soon be corrected by the new president, Abraham Lincoln. In addition, many hope that this uprising will be brief, that South Carolina will again rejoin the United States, and that no further bloodshed will result.

From a history textbook:

Civil War

In December of 1860, South Carolina decided to leave the Union of the United States of America. The state adopted what was called the Ordinance of Secession, which stated South Carolina's intent to secede, or split away, from the Union. South Carolina was the first of many southern states to secede from the Union. South Carolina's actions set in motion both the secessionist movement and the formation of a southern confederacy or separate government.

The war officially started on April 12, 1861, when Southern troops fired upon a federal fort, Fort Sumter, located in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. The federal soldiers in the fort surrendered the next day. Two days later, on April 15, 1861, President Lincoln called for federal troops to defend the country. This event marked the true beginning of the American Civil War.

The battle at Fort Sumter was the start of a long and bloody war that lasted four years and caused the deaths of thousands of soldiers. In April 1865, the war ended and Fort Sumter once again had the United States flag flying over it, but the years of internal fighting would have a lasting impact on the country.