


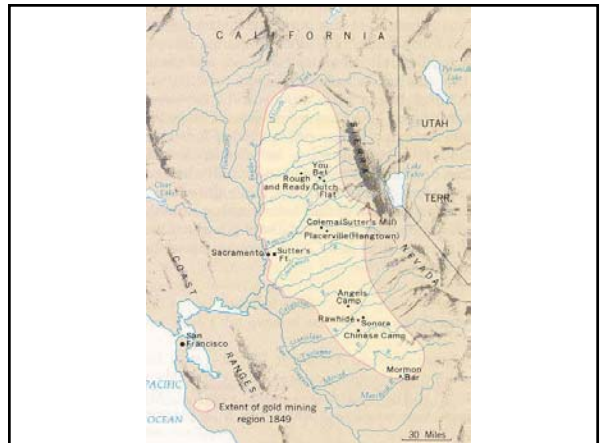
## Wilmot Proviso

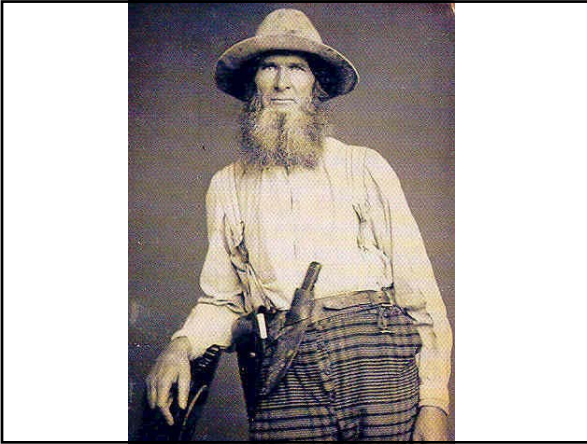
- Intro. by David Wilmot from Penn.
- Was an amendment to bill appropriating money for war w/ Mexico in 1846
- Prohibited slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico
  - The line of 36°30' only applied to Louisiana Territory
  - Outraged the S.
    - Land to be acquired was worthless.
    - Precedent of the Wilmot Proviso would be dangerous.
- Easily passed the House
  - Where northerners outnumbered southerners
- Defeated in the Senate
  - Showing the importance of free state/slave state balance again



## California

- Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848.
  - Located near San Francisco
  - Produced over \$200 million in 4 yrs.
  - Caused prospectors to flock to Cal. in the "Gold Rush"
    - 80,000 in 1849 alone
    - The "forty-niners"
- Cal. now qualified for statehood.
  - Needed pop. of 60,000 according to N.W. Ordinance
  - Submitted a constitution prohibiting slavery
    - Upsetting balance btw. slave states/free states in the Senate





## Compromise of 1850

- Proposed by Clay
  - “The Great Compromiser”
- Provisions
  - Cal. admitted as free state.
  - Mexican Cession to settle question of slavery w/ “popular sovereignty.”
    - Allowing the settlers to territory to decide
  - Stronger Fugitive Slave Act to be enacted.
    - To thwart efforts of the Underground Railroad
      - Which helped slaves escape into the N. and Canada
    - To allow southerners to pursue and capture runaways
  - Slave trade abolished in D.C.

## Compromise of 1850

- Last “hooray” for the aging triumvirate
  - Clay → last great speech of his life
  - Calhoun
    - Too feeble to speak himself
      - Read by a fellow senator
      - Set bundled in a chair during his speech
    - Died 4 weeks later
  - Webster
    - Voice faltered during delivery
    - Last great speech of his life
- Stephen A. Douglas
  - Senator from IL
  - Did most of the work to get compromise passed



## Compromise of 1850

- Risked veto by Pres. Taylor
  - Won the Election of 1848
    - Military hero elected for political inexperience.
      - Had never even cast a vote in an election!
  - Favored of his own plan
    - To admit Cal. and New Mexico both
    - To let both territories decide question for themselves
  - Prevented compromise from getting much support
    - Why risk political careers only to see it vetoed?
  - Died on July 9<sup>th</sup> during the debates
    - Replaced by Millard Fillmore
      - Who welcomed a compromise
- Required each component to be voted separately
  - Otherwise would have been voted down b/c of specific objections.
  - Many congressmen absented themselves during certain votes.