



# **Cassius Clay**

A Not-Too-Tall Tale

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Cassius Marcellus Clay was born to a wealthy family in Kentucky in 1810.



While attending Yale, he heard speeches from famous abolitionists and joined the movement to ban slavery.

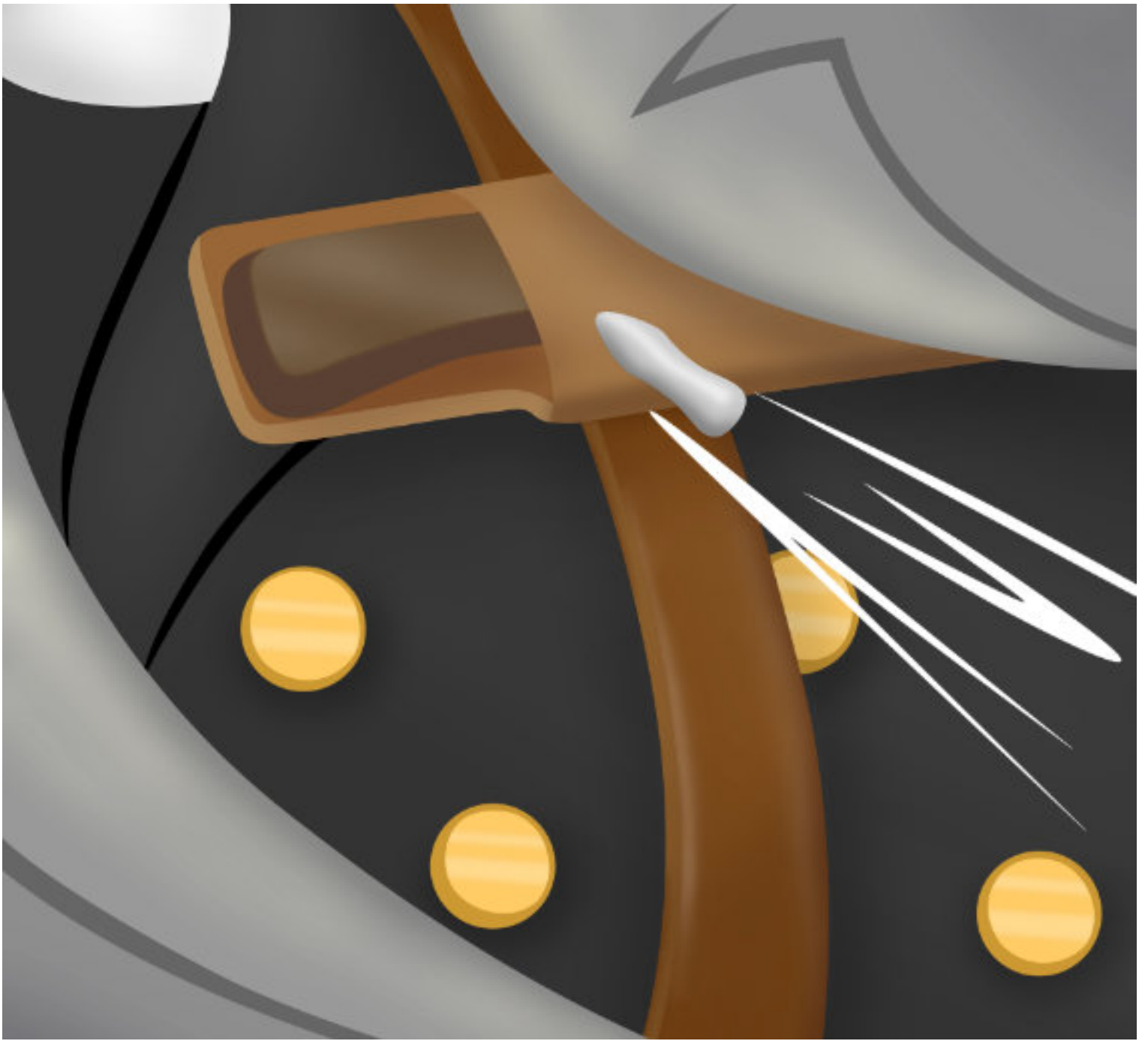


He founded the Republican Party of Kentucky and was elected to state office.



During a political debate, he was shot by a man named Sam Brown.





The bullet hit Clay's knife and barely missed his heart.



Clay drew his knife and badly wounded Sam Brown.

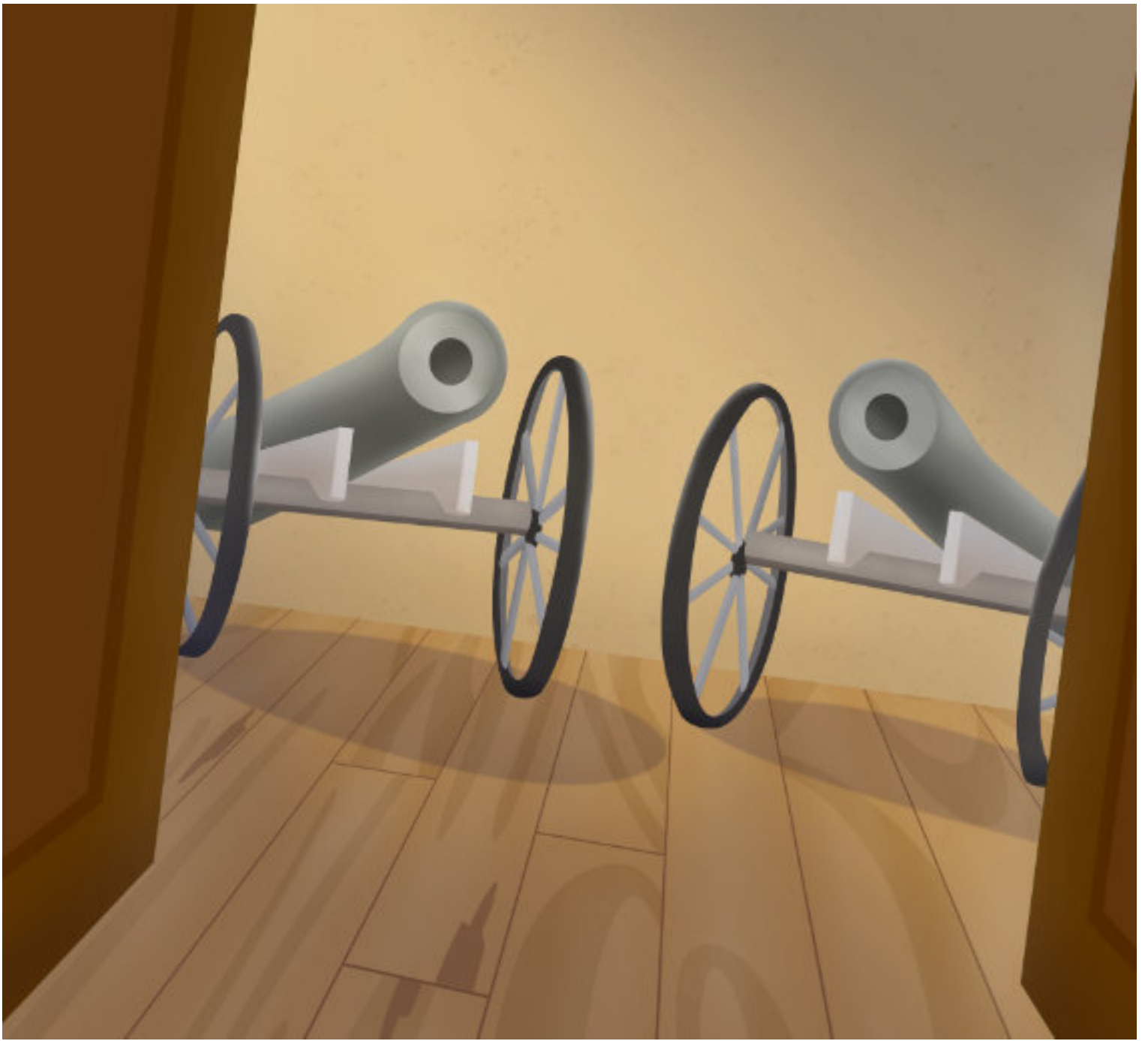


The attack didn't scare him. He soon started an anti-slavery newspaper.





The paper earned him many death threats, so Clay carried two pistols.



He installed two small cannon inside the front doors of the newspaper office.



Despite these preparations, a mob soon stormed the building.



Clay wasn't defeated. He simply moved the newspaper offices to the free state of Ohio and kept printing.





Clay then served in the Mexican-American war as a Captain in the Army.





But he opposed taking Texas. As a result, he was attacked by the six Turner brothers.

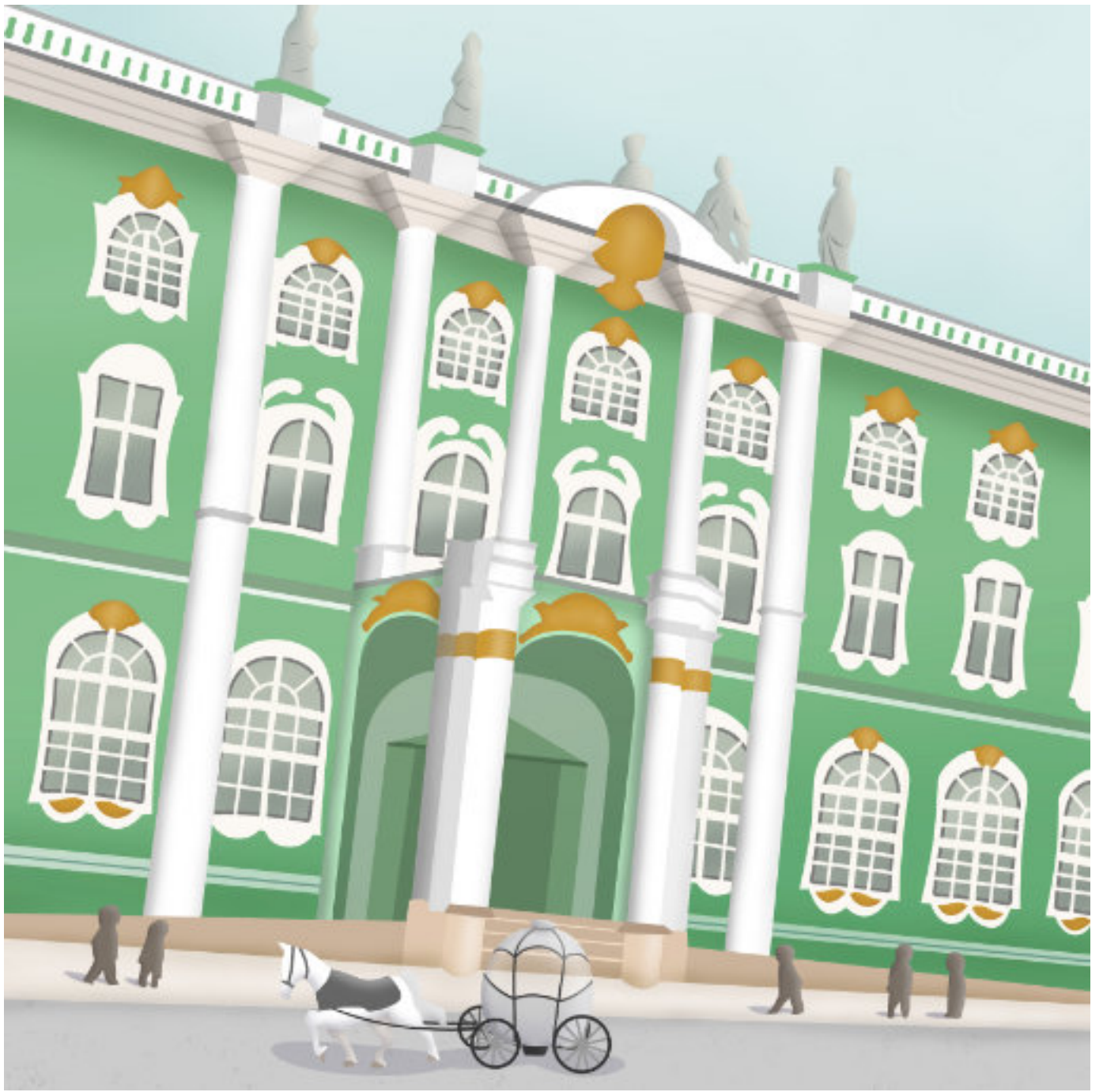


Clay fought off all six with his Bowie knife, killing one of them.

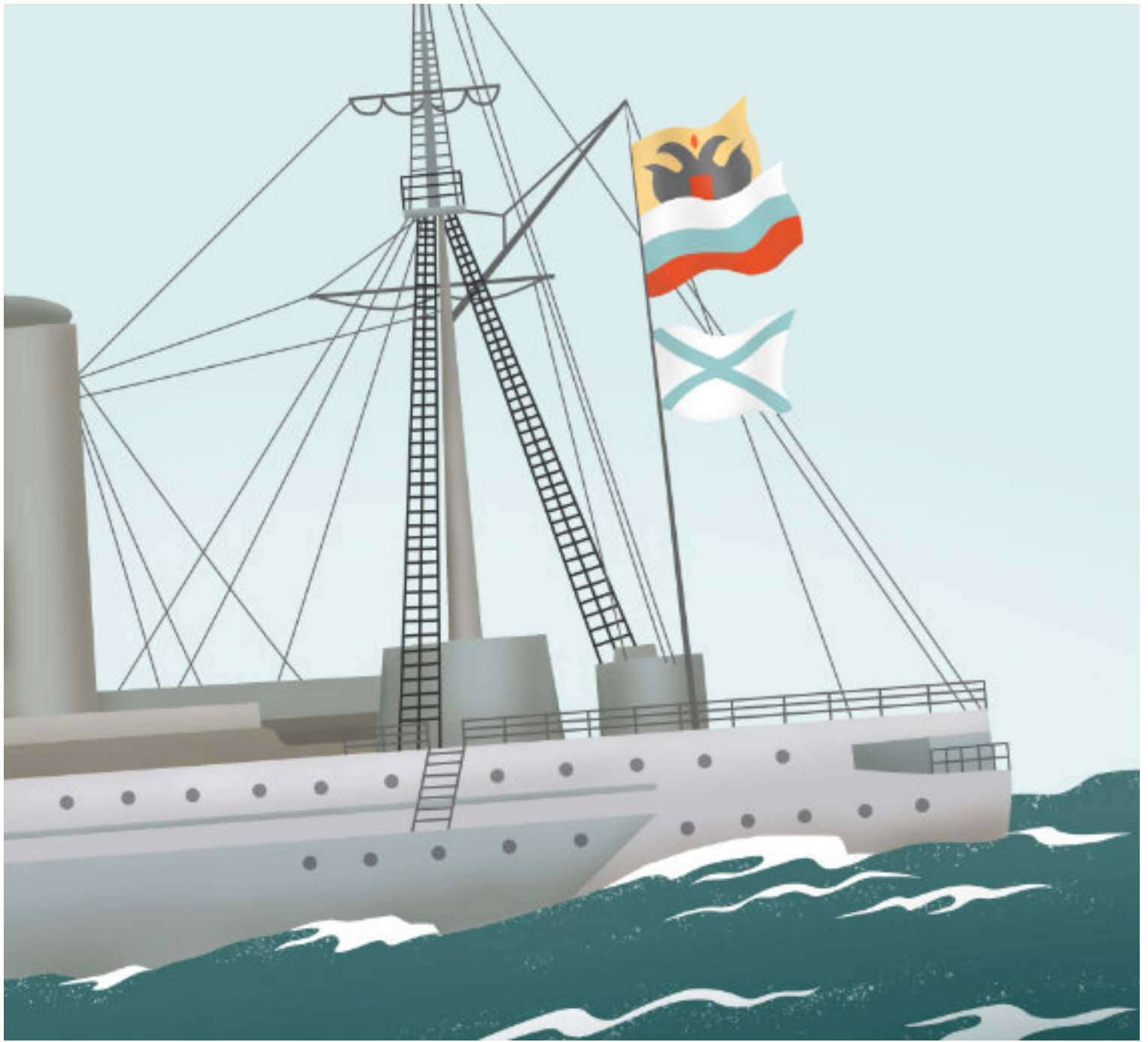


When the Civil War came, Clay organized 300 volunteers to protect the White House from possible Confederate attack.





He was then appointed Ambassador to Russia.



He secured Tsar Alexander's naval support for the Union in the Civil War.





In Russia, Clay saw Tsar Alexander end serfdom - a form of servitude similar to slavery.



Clay reported the Russian emancipation to President Lincoln and pressed for the US' own Emancipation Proclamation.



Lincoln made the act into law. The act freed slaves in the United States and was an enormous victory for the abolitionist cause Clay fought for.



After a long life of fierce fighting for the freedom of all Americans, Clay died peacefully in 1903.





He is often remembered for being the original namesake of Muhammad Ali, who was also an important freedom fighter in his own way.





## **About the Author**

Patience Clay is a parent and history buff. She has always loved sharing history with her kids. Now, she wants to share some of her favorite true tales with other children around the world.



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