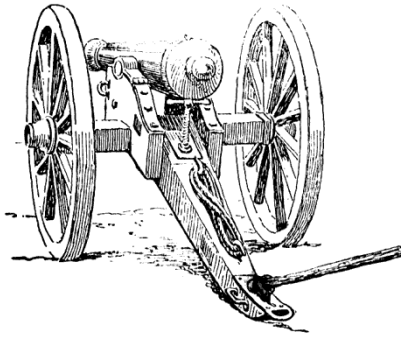


# Chapter 11 – The American Civil War – 1860 to 1865

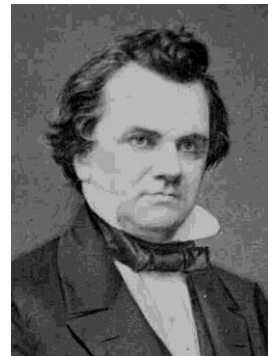
## Review

Have you ever had a feeling that things were just not going to work out? You know, like when you're watching a movie and you're pretty sure that one of the characters is going to have something bad happen to him or her. From what you already know, you're aware that things were growing steadily worse for the United States. In our last reading you learned how the country was coming apart – that there was a sectional division between the North and the South. And you know that one of the primary reasons for that division was the issue of slavery. In this reading, we will learn about how bad things really turned out. We will see how it took more than a half million American lives to bring this country back together.



when he was nominated, Buchanan promised that he was not interested in running again. So that meant that there would be a new Democratic candidate in 1860. They met in Charleston, South Carolina for their convention. Southern Democrats wanted the party **platform** to include

support for slavery in the territories. When they didn't get what they wanted, they walked out. Two months later the Democrats tried again, this time in Baltimore, Maryland. Again Southern Democrats walked out when their demands were not met. The remaining delegates at the convention chose Stephen Douglas of Illinois to be their candidate.



Stephen Douglas  
(Northern Democrat)

## LESSON 1 – THE FINAL STRAW

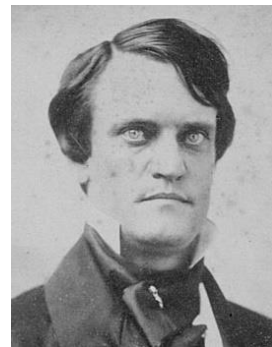
**Main Idea:** *Candidates in 1860 all wanted to keep the country together but the result would finally be the thing that broke the country in two.*

### The Election of 1860

Of all the presidential elections you've learned about or perhaps, will ever learn about in this class, this one is probably the most important. That's because the end result of this election was the last straw when it came to keeping the United States together. Ironically, for the guy who won the election, his only goal was to keep the **Union** together.

In 1860 Democrat James Buchanan was the president. You'll remember that

Just 10 days later, the Southern Democrats held their own convention in Richmond, Virginia. They nominated John Breckinridge of Kentucky to be their candidate. This meant that the Democratic Party had split into northern and southern sections – basically over the slave issue.

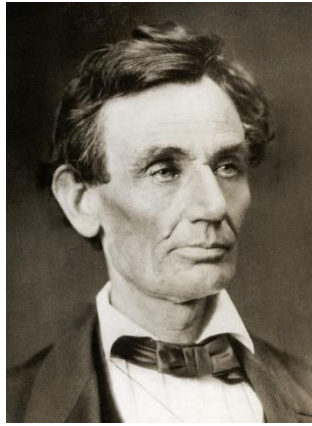


John C. Breckinridge  
(Southern Democrat)

This was good news for the Republicans because this gave them a huge advantage going into the November election.

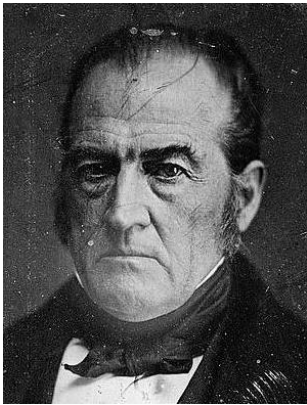
The Republicans went into their nominating convention in Chicago, Illinois with the knowledge that the

Democrats were falling apart. The front runner for the nomination was William Seward, U.S. Senator from New York. Seward, along with other Republicans seeking the nomination, had problems within the party. He was seen by too many as a radical. His position on slavery was clearly abolitionist. Republicans were fearful he would alienate too many voters. As a result, the Republicans settled on a **moderate** – a man whose views were all about keeping the country together. That man was Abraham Lincoln of Illinois.



Abraham Lincoln  
(Republican)

As in many of the elections you've learned about, there was a third-party candidate. This new party was called the Constitutional Union Party. They nominated John Bell of Tennessee and their goal was "the Union as it is, and the Constitution as it is." But as it goes historically, third-party candidates have a tough time winning.



John Bell  
(Constitutional Union)

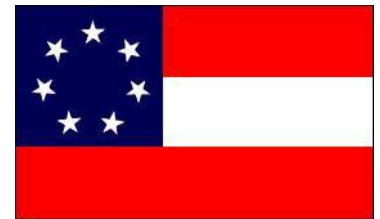
The result of the election was that no candidate held a majority of popular votes. Abraham Lincoln had 40% of the popular vote even though his name didn't even appear on the ballot in 10 southern states. Obviously most of his votes came from the highly populated northern states. Stephen Douglas (Northern Democrat), Lincoln's nemesis back in the 1858 Senate election in Illinois, came up with only 30% of the popular vote. John Breckinridge (Southern Democrat) held 18% of the popular vote and

John Bell won 12%. Despite no majority of popular votes, Lincoln won 180 of a possible 303 electoral votes and won the presidency. His election was helped by the Democrats splitting into two.

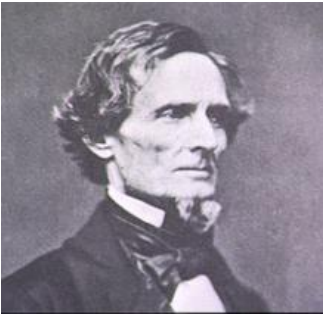
## Secession

The title of this section is a word that means "to secede or break away." Before the dust had settled on the Election of 1860, Southerners were calling for secession. Lincoln would be sworn in as president in March but by December, southern legislatures were already debating the possibility of seceding. They felt that a Republican administration and a Republican Congress (did I mention that the Republicans won a majority of seats in both the House and the Senate?) would severely limit the rights of Southerners and do everything possible to stop the spread of slavery. Supporters of secession argued that the Southern way of life was threatened by the very existence of a Republican-controlled federal government.

On December 20, 1860 South Carolina became the first state to vote for secession. In a little over a month, six more states (Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana & Texas) voted to leave the Union. President Buchanan refused to do anything about the problem, preferring to leave it up to the new guy when Buchanan left office. Then on March 4, 1861 Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. In his first inaugural address, Lincoln stated that he intended to protect the Constitution and that under the Constitution, no state could just decide to leave. He also said he supported keeping slavery in the states where it was already legal. Lincoln appealed to



First battle flag of the  
Confederacy



*Confederate President  
Jefferson Davis*

Southerners adding that any conflict was in their hands, that he would not start a war.

The seven states that had seceded formed their own government called the **Confederate**

**States of America.** They elected **Jefferson Davis**, a former U.S. Senator from Mississippi, to be the new president of the CSA. Davis stated in his inaugural address (sworn in a month before Lincoln) that the reason these states were seceding was the age-old argument over states' rights. The new Confederate Constitution stressed states' rights and made the Confederate federal government intentionally weak, thereby giving the states in the CSA more authority than they had under the U.S. Constitution.

***Lesson 1 Review Questions – (write answers in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper).***

1. What was the Democratic platform of 1860 missing that caused southern Democrats to walk out of two conventions?
2. If Abraham Lincoln only got 40% of the popular vote in 1860, how did he become president?
3. Why did southern states secede after Lincoln won the election?

## LESSON 2 – THE WAR BEGINS

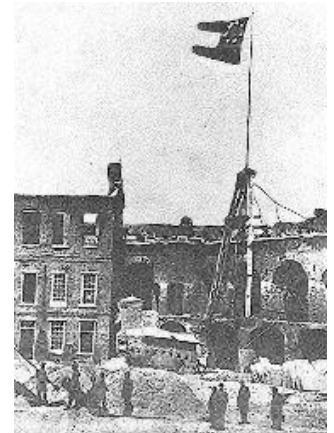
***Main Idea:*** *Both sides expected a short conflict that would result in victory.*

## The War Begins at Fort Sumter, South Carolina

As the seven original Confederate states left the Union, the United States military bases in those states were abandoned. Soldiers came north while those who supported the South left the U.S. military and joined the Confederate military. One base remained in the hands of the U.S. and President Lincoln was not about to give it up.

The base we're referring to is Fort Sumter. Its construction was not yet complete, but it was

located on a man-made island in the middle of Charleston Harbor. In command of the fort was Major Robert Anderson. The Confederates under General P.G.T. Beauregard told Anderson to surrender the fort but he would not do it. President Lincoln knew that he was at a critical point. It was April 1861 and so far there had been no real fighting. He knew that if he re-supplied the fort with more soldiers and cannons, that the South would view this as hostile and then start the war. In order to avoid this problem, Lincoln tried to re-supply the fort only with food and other provisions. Still the Confederates insisted on Anderson surrendering the fort.



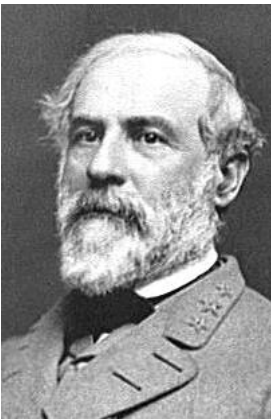
*The Confederate flag flies over Ft. Sumter*

On April 12, 1861, the Confederates, who had set up cannons around the fort from the harbor, opened fire. They shelled the fort for 34 consecutive hours. The next day, Major Anderson surrendered the fort. Remarkably, nobody on either side was killed as a result of hostile fire. The flag of the Confederacy flew over the fort on April 13. The Civil War had officially begun.

## Finding a Leader

Now that the war had started, Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers from the various states to help preserve the Union. The call for troops prompted four more southern states to secede. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee all voted for secession by June. The costliest was Virginia. The state of Virginia borders Washington, D.C. across the Potomac River. This now meant that enemy territory was visible from the White House! To make matters worse, Virginia seceding cost Lincoln the opportunity to hire one of the best generals available to lead his army.

The highest-ranking soldier in the army at that time was General Winfield Scott. You may remember him from the Mexican War. He was responsible for capturing Mexico City. By 1861 he was an old man – he was overweight and suffered from gout<sup>1</sup>. He was in no condition to lead an army. Scott advised Lincoln to ask Colonel **Robert E. Lee** to take the job. Lee, you'll remember, was the man in charge of



*Robert E. Lee*

arresting John Brown when he broke into the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859. He was a career army officer, having graduated at the top of his class at West Point<sup>2</sup>. Lee's father was General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee who had fought with George Washington in the Revolution. He had

married Mary Custis, the step-great-granddaughter of George Washington and lived on land across from the capital city in Virginia that was part of Martha

Washington's estate. Leading the U.S. Army was everything he had worked for his entire life. And he turned down the offer.

Robert E. Lee knew he couldn't take the job the moment the state of Virginia left the Union. Lee was against secession but he told Lincoln he could not take up arms against his home state of Virginia. He resigned from the Union army and went home to his plantation across the Potomac at Arlington. Lee went on to become a military advisor for Jefferson Davis at the Confederate capital in Richmond. By Spring 1862 he was in charge of the largest Confederate army and became their best leader. Lincoln would go through general after general, trying to find someone capable enough to get the job done.

## North vs. South

Going into this war, both sides believed it would end quickly. They each were confident that the other didn't have the stomach or the skills necessary for dragging the fighting out. Boy, were they wrong! In fact, volunteers signed up on both sides desperate to join the army and see the fighting first hand before it was all over. These volunteers feared that this was an opportunity of a lifetime and they didn't want to miss out. It would turn out that they were right about it being an opportunity of a lifetime – they just didn't anticipate that their lifetimes would be cut short as a result. On the other hand, many volunteered because this was an adventure. Most of these men on both sides had never been away from home before and now they had a chance to see the world – at least another part of their country.

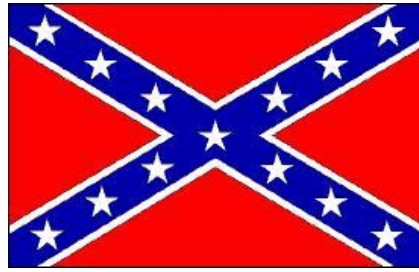
Before we get any further, we need to take a look at both sides and what they hoped to achieve in this war. Simply put,

<sup>1</sup> **gout:** a painful inflammation of the big toe and foot caused by defects in uric acid metabolism resulting in deposits of the acid and its salts in the blood and joints.

<sup>2</sup> **West Point:** United States Army installation on the west bank of Hudson river to the north of New York City; site of United States Military Academy.



the North was fighting to preserve the Union – keep the country together. The South was fighting for its independence from the Union. Many in the South called this their second war of independence (with the first being against the British in 1776). The Union felt that all they needed to do was go down to the southern states and win a few battles and the whole thing would be over. The Confederates felt that all they had to do was beat the Yankee army (as they called it) a few times and they would lose their nerve and give up. Both sides were way off in their estimate of what was going to happen.



*Confederate Battle Flag*

So, what was the plan for each side? What were the advantages and disadvantages for both? Let's start with the Confederacy. Their only goal was to make it so difficult for the Union forces to be successful that President Lincoln and the U.S. government would let them be an independent nation. They had some advantages. If the Union wanted the southern states back, they would have to go to those states and defeat the Confederate army. This meant that the war would be fought on southern soil and the Confederates could choose where the fight would take place. They knew the land better than the northerners. They were defending their homes and that's some pretty big incentive to win. You could call this a home field advantage for the South.



Since the majority of people in the South lived in a rural, agricultural setting, they were familiar with those things necessary for survival there. That meant that many of the soldiers joining the Confederate army were familiar with guns and surviving in that environment. Most Northerners were from rural locations as well, but a number of their soldiers also

came from urban areas and/or were immigrants, unfamiliar with firearms.

The biggest advantage for the South was the amount of qualified and knowledgeable officers. There is a reason for this. The wealthy plantation owners in the South often sent their children (males) off to

school. It was not uncommon for these families to send their sons to the United States military academies in West Point or Annapolis (U.S. Naval Academy). Many of the best officers in the military, therefore, came from the South. When those southern states seceded, many of these officers, like Robert E. Lee, resigned from the U.S. military and joined the Confederate military. This is not to say that the Union did not have good officers. They had some very good ones. But because the Confederates had such highly skilled military leaders, they could overcome some difficult odds and make the fighting very challenging for the Union.

The Union goal was simple as well. They needed to preserve the Union. They needed to defeat the rebellious army of the Confederacy and capture their leaders. How would they go about doing this? They had a plan developed by General Winfield Scott. It was called the **Anaconda Plan** because they were to suffocate the Confederacy into giving up. Here's what it called for:

1. **Blockade the Southern Ports:** because the Confederacy was dependent on weapons and supplies from other countries, and because they had no navy, the Union navy would block any ships from entering or leaving southern ports.
2. **Control the Mississippi River:** this river ran through the heart of the Confederacy and was a key transportation route. If

the Union could control the Mississippi, it would cut off approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Confederate territory from the east.

3. **Capture Richmond:** the Confederate capital was about 100 miles away from Washington, D.C. If the *rebel* leadership could be captured, the rebellion would be over.

The advantages the North had were far larger than those for the South. The most obvious advantage was that there were four times as many free citizens in the North as there were in the South. This means they could field a larger army than the Confederates could. But even more, it meant that the Union had so many people, they could concentrate on growing food and making supplies for the military. The question often comes up about the South using their slaves for the war. They certainly didn't want to arm them (at least not until the very end, when the South was desperate). Slaves could not be counted upon to provide everything the Confederacy needed so you wouldn't count them in comparison to the number of people living in the North.

Maybe the most important advantage for the Union was its industrial capability. Everything that the Union army needed could be provided. This was not the case in the South. There was very limited industrial production there so they were dependent upon getting their war supplies from other countries. Union industry combined with their railroad transportation system made them a tough enemy to beat. The South didn't have the large number of rail lines that could be found in the North. The Union could move men and material quickly and that gave them a huge advantage.



A final advantage for the North was their navy. The Confederacy really had no navy. The only navy they could say they

possessed was what few ships they had taken from the Union or bought from the British. With their navy, the Union could **blockade** the southern ports and keep valuable supplies from reaching the Confederate army.

One last thing before we proceed. Union soldiers wore blue uniforms, Confederates wore gray – if they had uniforms. Lacking war supplies, uniforms were not high on the list for rebel commanders. But this is why the war is sometimes referred to as the fight between the Blue and the Gray.

***Lesson 2 Review Questions – (write answers in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper).***

1. Why was the situation at Ft. Sumter a "no-win" situation for Lincoln?
2. Why didn't Robert E. Lee accept the command offered by Lincoln?
3. Of the advantages the North had over the South, which do you think was the greatest and why?

## LESSON 3 – HORRIBLE BLOODSHED

***Main Idea:*** *Predictions of an early end to the war were quickly dispelled when it became clear that the fighting would last a long time.*

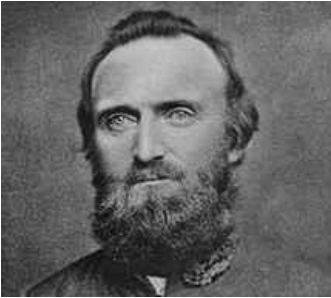
### **The Battle of Bull Run**

By July 1861 there was a call for the army to get moving. General Irvin McDowell was put in charge of the Union army in Washington, D.C. McDowell's army was made up largely of untrained volunteers. President Lincoln urged McDowell to take the army south into Virginia and attack the rebel capital at Richmond. Lincoln wanted a

quick end to this war. Despite his concern over the lack of training for his army, McDowell started south.

Between the Union capital and Richmond, about 25 miles south of Washington, D.C., is the town of Manassas, Virginia. It was a small town that was a railroad junction – meaning it was the crossroads for two rail lines. The Confederate army was outside of that town alongside Bull Run Creek. It was here on July 21, 1861 that the first major land battle of the Civil War was fought.

So confident of victory were some people from Washington, that they traveled with picnic lunches to watch the fight. Things early on were going very good for the Union as they marched on the left **flank** of



**Confederate General  
Thomas "Stonewall"  
Jackson**

the Confederate lines. The Union army outnumbered the Confederates and as they marched toward the Rebels, many of them broke and ran. One brigade that did not break was under the command of General **Thomas Jackson**. Jackson had served in the U.S. army and was a teacher at the Virginia Military Institute before the war. One of the Confederate officers was heard to say, "Look! There stands Jackson like a stonewall!" in order to encourage his soldiers to fight on. The quote earned Jackson the nickname "Stonewall".

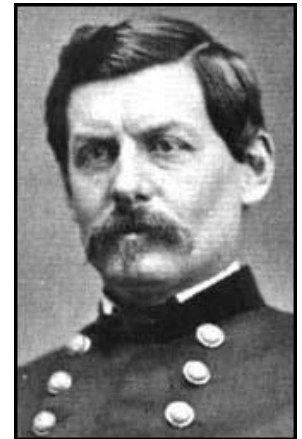
As the Union soldiers came upon Jackson's line, they were shocked. The Confederate line wouldn't break. Confused, many of the Union soldiers fell back and broke off the fighting. Meanwhile, Confederate reinforcements had arrived by train. Fearing a counter-attack by the Confederates, many Union regiments dropped their weapons and fled. Clogging

their retreat were the carriages of the picnickers who were also fearful of a Confederate attack on Washington, D.C. The Confederate army was just as inexperienced and confused as the Union army, however, so no attack ever came. The **casualty** rate was high for both sides but the Confederates had captured over one thousand Union soldiers in their attempt to flee. The outcome proved to both sides that this was not going to be a quick war.

## McClellan Takes Command

Less than a week after the loss at Bull Run, Lincoln replaced McDowell with a young general named **George McClellan**. He was another West Point graduate but had been president of the Illinois Central as well as the Ohio & Mississippi Railroads. McClellan was only 34 years old when he was put in charge of the Army of the Potomac (the name given to the huge Union army in Washington, D.C.) and when General Scott retired, he was named supreme commander of the Union army. This meant he was in charge of all the Union soldiers fighting everywhere in the war.

One of the first things McClellan set out to do was to train his army. Most of the people in the army were volunteers, men who had never fought before. Many were farmers who had come hundreds of miles to join up. These men had to be trained and disciplined otherwise they might freak out and run away the same way McDowell's men had at Bull Run.



**General George  
McClellan**

McClellan was determined not to have that happen again. He began building a ring of defenses around Washington that consisted

of 48 forts or strengthened positions. He organized the army to make it efficient.

General McClellan's biggest problem was his constant belief that the enemy outnumbered him. Even though his Army of the Potomac had swelled to well over 100,000 men and was, at the time, probably the biggest army in the world, he still believed the Confederate forces were bigger than his own. Congress became concerned as the army was not making any moves to defeat the Confederates. Personally, McClellan didn't think much of President Lincoln. Lincoln had worked as a lawyer for the Illinois Central Railroad before the war and McClellan wrote to his wife that Lincoln was "nothing more than a well-meaning baboon." In fact, when the president visited his home on November 13, 1861, McClellan made him wait a half hour and then had a servant tell Lincoln he had gone to bed. Can you imagine blowing off the President of the United States? Clearly, McClellan was a bit big-headed.

Things were getting really bad by December. McClellan had contracted **typhoid** and was too sick to meet a joint committee of Congress that was meeting to find out just what the heck was going on. Lincoln was growing more frustrated and finally called the general to the White House to meet with his cabinet to discuss his plans. Finally, he told them he was planning to go around the Confederate forces that were outside of the capital and attack Richmond from the rear. It was a sound plan and Lincoln was happy to learn that McClellan was actually going to do something.

It turned out that although the plan was a good one, McClellan's ability to carry it out was poor. The army moved over 100,000 troops down the Potomac River and, due to the rainy spring weather, was forced to move incredibly slowing up the peninsula toward Richmond. During this time, the Confederates attacked McClellan's larger force, convincing him that they had a

bigger army than they truly had. When Lincoln denied him reinforcements that were protecting Washington, McClellan gave up and retreated back to the capital by August of 1862. The campaign was a disaster with over 35,000 Union soldiers killed, wounded or captured.

It was also during this time that Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Lee would lead them, the largest of the Confederate armies, until the end of the war.

## The Battle of Shiloh

In April 1862 another key battle was raging in the west – specifically, western Tennessee. While McClellan was launching his attack on the Virginia peninsula, the Union army in the west was finding more success. The Union army had won victories in northern Tennessee at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in February. By April, the Union army was along the Tennessee River near the location of Pittsburg Landing. The fighting that took place there demonstrated that the Union army had capable leadership.



*Union General Ulysses S. Grant*

The general that emerged from this battle as a great leader was **Ulysses S. Grant** of Illinois. Grant had attended West Point, like Robert E. Lee and had also fought in the Mexican War like Lee, but he was not a career soldier. When the war began, Grant volunteered and was appointed by Illinois Governor Yates to train recruits. He eventually was given a command by Yates and later promoted to general by President Lincoln. At the fighting at Fort Donelson,



Tennessee, Grant's army forced the surrender of over 12,000 Confederate soldiers earning him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. He had said to the Confederate commander there that his conditions were "no terms except unconditional and immediate surrender." He became a hero in the west.

In early April 1862, Grant's Army of West Tennessee was camped along the Tennessee River near the town of Pittsburg Landing. His camp was near a small church called Shiloh. The Confederates launched a surprise attack on Grant, nearly surrounding his army and cutting him off from the river. The Union Army held, however, and when reinforcements arrived that night, Grant launched a counterattack, driving off the Confederates.

In three days of fighting, the Confederates suffered 10,000 casualties while the Union losses were over 13,000. This made the total loss (Union + Confederate) greater than all of the American casualties from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Mexican War combined. Despite calls for Grant's firing, Lincoln refused to replace him stating, "I can't spare this man; he fights." The battle proved ultimately how costly this war would become and that the Union army, given good leadership, could defeat the Confederates.

## Emancipation

So far we've been learning a lot about the various battles that were taking place – most of them being Confederate victories. What we haven't mentioned has been the slave issue. Slavery, after all, was one of the biggest issues that caused the war. Many people had tried to persuade President Lincoln that he needed to declare a total **emancipation** of all slaves. But Lincoln realized that it wasn't going to be that simple. He had to consider those people who were **not** against slavery – and

that was the majority of Americans. He also had to consider the four Border States



that were still with the Union but were also slave states. Those states were Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland & Delaware (also the western portion of Virginia which would soon become its own state). Emancipating slaves there might cause them to leave the Union and join the Confederacy. In a letter sent to *New York Tribune* editor Horace Greeley, Lincoln wrote:

*My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.*

In July 1862 Lincoln discussed emancipation as an option with his cabinet. It was agreed by Lincoln and his cabinet that any type of emancipation could only be done after a battlefield victory for the Union army – preferably in the east – otherwise the freeing of slaves would appear to look like a desperate attempt by a losing side in war. Lincoln would get as close to that victory as possible in September 1862 at the Battle of Antietam.

## The Battle of Antietam

After defeating the Union army at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee made the decision to go on the offensive. The Confederate battle plan for winning the war had been to fight a defensive war (we called this "home field advantage" on page 5) but now Lee felt he could use his recent success to win over the Border State of

Maryland to the Confederate side. There had always been a large number of Confederate sympathizers in Maryland and at the very least; Lee felt an invasion of Maryland would affect public opinion in the November elections. Confederate President Davis thought a victory on Union soil might help the Confederacy win support from Europe (just as the 1777 American victory at Saratoga had gained French support in the American Revolution). And finally, since Lee's army needed supplies and new recruits, he felt that he could get those things in Maryland.

So, in September 1862, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac River into the Union. As McClellan moved his Army of the Potomac to stop Lee he received an incredible advantage. Some Union soldiers found three cigars in an envelope where a Confederate officer had been only hours before. The cigars were wrapped in a paper that turned out to be Lee's plan for invasion. Now McClellan knew exactly where Lee was going and he could use this to his benefit. But McClellan waited 18 hours before moving against Lee and lost whatever advantage he had.

The main body of Lee's army was at Sharpsburg, Maryland, a little town near Antietam Creek. McClellan moved to meet Lee there but was again convinced that Lee's army numbered around 100,000 (which was ridiculous since he had Lee's plans).

The fighting began at 5:30am on the morning of September 17. McClellan's attack was poorly planned and executed. When fighting ended 12 hours after it began, the combined casualty count was over 22,000 with over 3,500 dead. That makes the Battle of Antietam the single bloodiest day in American history. Such an overwhelming amount of destruction forced Lee to abandon the battlefield and retreat back into Virginia. With Lee reeling, McClellan, who had the numbers advantage,

*Chapter 11 – American Civil War*

should have pursued him but he didn't. As a result, Lincoln had had enough of McClellan and he relieved him of command of the Army of the Potomac.

Just the same, the Union called Antietam a victory. For the first time Lee had been pushed back. Even though statistically many people would say the Battle of Antietam was a draw, others argue that Lee's retreat and Lincoln's issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation make this a pivotal point of the war.



*Fighting during the Battle of Antietam began near this white building called the Dunker Church.*

**Lesson 3 Review Questions – (write answers in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper).**

1. Why was the Battle of Bull Run a disaster for the Union Army – how did sight-seers add to the chaos?
2. What was so remarkable about the Battle of Shiloh?
3. What did President Lincoln have to consider when weighing the possibility of emancipating the slaves?

## LESSON 4 – CHANGING THE WAR AND CHANGING LIVES

**Main Idea:** *The primary goal of Lincoln remained preserving the union. Ending slavery became a means to that end. This decision would change the lives of so many.*

### Emancipation Proclamation

With the so-called Union victory at Antietam, Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation. This is considered one of his greatest achievements yet when you look at exactly what this proclamation did you might be surprised. Let's remember that Lincoln had to consider the political impact of freeing the slaves. Lincoln was an excellent politician and he knew that he had to be very careful.

So, then what did the Emancipation Proclamation do? You would probably think it freed the slaves but that's not entirely correct. First of all, it was a threat intended to hurt the South and possibly bring about an end to the rebellion. It says that the states in rebellion (Lincoln never referred to them as the Confederacy because he did not recognize their right to exist) had until January 1, 1863 to return to the Union or he would free all slaves in those states. This way he was not freeing any slaves in the Border States. None of the Confederate states took him up on his offer of returning to the Union.

So how many slaves did Lincoln free when he issued this proclamation on September 22, 1862? Technically, the answer would be zero. The Emancipation Proclamation would only go into effect on January 1, 1863 and only where the Union army had advanced into Confederate-held territory. But there were other advantages for Lincoln in issuing this. European

countries that had been leaning toward supporting the Confederacy now found it impossible to do so without looking like they were supporting slavery. British or French support for the Confederacy would have made fighting the war increasingly difficult for Lincoln. Also, the Emancipation Proclamation allowed former slaves to join the Union army. Nearly 200,000 blacks, mostly former slaves joined the Union army, giving Lincoln's army an even bigger numerical advantage.

### Copperheads

Unfortunately, there was a political drawback for Lincoln. Even some of the "War Democrats," who supported Lincoln's efforts to restore the Union, were uncomfortable with freeing slaves. The Democrats, primarily a group called the Copperheads, won 28 seats in the House of Representatives in the November 1862 elections. The Copperheads were a group of Democrats in the North who were adamantly opposed to the war. They blamed abolitionists for causing the war and they absolutely hated Lincoln and his waging of the war. They accused Lincoln of being a tyrant who was bent on destroying the American republic and the Bill of Rights.

Copperheads argued for a peace agreement with the Confederates thus



**A political cartoon showing "Copperheads" or snakes with the heads of "Peace Democrats" attacking the image of liberty and Union.**



**Copperhead leader  
Clement  
Vallandigham**

recognizing it as a legitimate country. They were sometimes called “Peace Democrats” but Republicans gave them the name “Copperheads” because of the poisonous snake that they wanted people to associate them with. The Copperheads embraced the name and wore copper coins on their clothing as badges of honor.

The undisputed leader of the Copperhead movement was **Clement Vallandigham** of Ohio. Vallandigham became a thorn in the side of the military and the Lincoln administration as he encouraged soldiers in the Union army to desert. He was arrested by the military, denied his habeas corpus rights<sup>3</sup> and sentenced to two years in prison. Lincoln, however, didn’t want Vallandigham to become a martyr<sup>4</sup> for the Copperhead cause. So instead he sent him to the Confederates. He later went to Canada and continued to make speeches against Lincoln and the war effort.

The Copperheads would continue to cause more problems for Lincoln as the war continued, but as the Union army scored more successes on the battlefield the Copperheads began to lose influence. We’ll learn more about them as we proceed.

### **Civil War Technology = High Casualties**

One thing should have become obvious to you so far. In these battles lots of people were killed or wounded. As we saw in the three days of fighting at Shiloh, more Americans were killed in those three days



than in all the previous wars combined. The two days of fighting at Chancellorsville resulted in nearly 30,000 casualties and one of the biggest names among the Confederate leaders was killed. (That’s in the next section). The question you might be asking yourself is, why are so many people dying?

The reason had to do with new technology and leadership, on both sides, that did not know how to effectively use this new technology. Let’s start with a basic new element – the bullet. Ok, bullets have been around for a long time but a new type of bullet called a **Minié ball**. This was a cone-shaped bullet that, when combined with the rifled barrel of a gun made for deadly accuracy. The bullet caused incredible damage when striking the human body, often shattering bones. Limbs were often



<sup>3</sup> **habeas corpus rights:** writ requiring a person to be brought before a judge or court and charged officially with a crime – this way that person cannot be imprisoned without trial.

<sup>4</sup> **martyr:** One who makes great sacrifices or suffers much in order to further a belief, cause, or principle

amputated<sup>5</sup> by surgeons in order to avoid infection. These surgeries were frequently performed with no anesthesia<sup>6</sup> for the patients. As you learned with Stonewall Jackson, amputation did not always save the patient.

Another new technology was an improvement to artillery fire. Artillery is the military term to describe cannons. Canister shot, which had been invented in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century made artillery fire far more deadly. Metal canisters were filled with lead or iron balls or sometimes scrap metal. They were fired from cannons and exploded over the battlefield. The exploding shot ripped through anything close to the explosion.

Other new technology included the first repeating rifles. These new weapons were breech-loading weapons with a cartridge/bullet combination that could fire multiple times before reloading. The very first machine guns were also used during the Civil War. They were manually operated guns like the Gatling Gun which had several rotating barrels that could be fired continuously. Submarines were used (although not very effectively given the level of technology) as well as hot-air balloons (for reconnaissance<sup>7</sup> purposes).

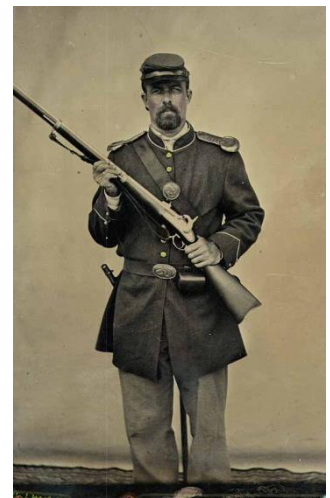
But the biggest killer during the war was not the result of technology, but rather, the lack of it. Disease killed more soldiers in the Civil War than anything else. We already mentioned the amputation of arms and legs hit by minié balls or canister shot and how this was done to avoid infection. Approximately 75% of amputees survived if surgery was performed in time. But there were other medical issues to consider. Huge camps of men and unsanitary conditions led to typhoid, chronic diarrhea

and dysentery. Pneumonia also resulted from simple colds and killed many. When you combine death from battle along with the possibility of disease, the chances of dying during this war was one in four (25%). This is why the Civil War was the deadliest of all American wars.

## Soldiers

When the war began both sides thought that it would end quickly. By the spring 1862 it was clear that wasn't the case anymore. Volunteers on both sides flocked to recruiting stations to sign up for the cause. The average age of these soldiers was 26 and the hardships they endured were tremendous. They marched for miles, suffered through all kinds of weather and lousy food. As 1862 wound down and the casualty lists grew to incredible numbers, the numbers of volunteers began to dwindle. Something had to be done to replace the soldiers who had either died in battle or perished due to illness.

The solution was **conscription**. Both the Union and Confederacy came up with laws for drafting soldiers into the military. As early as April 1862 the Confederate government began drafting young men into the army. White men between the ages of 18 and 35 were drafted into the army unless they held an occupation on the home front deemed necessary by the government. The Confederate draft law exempted anyone who owned 20 or more slaves. In other words, if you



*Union soldier*

<sup>5</sup> **amputation:** to cut off (all or part of a limb or digit of the body), as by surgery.

<sup>6</sup> **anesthesia:** general or local insensibility, as to pain and other sensation, induced by certain interventions or drugs to permit the performance of surgery or other painful procedures.

<sup>7</sup> **reconnaissance:** An inspection or exploration of an area, especially one made to gather military information.



were rich you could avoid the draft. You could also hire a replacement to serve for you. This was a practice that also was allowed in the Union draft.



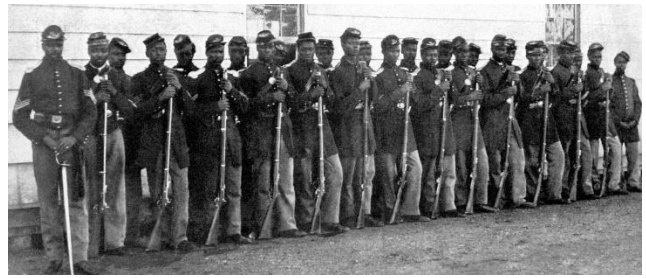
**Confederate  
soldier**

In March 1863 President Lincoln signed a draft law into effect. Men ages 18 to 45 were to be enrolled for the draft which took place at the state level. In order to attract volunteers and avoid mandatory service, bounties of \$100 to \$500 dollars were offered. It should be noted that \$500 was about the average amount of money made in one year during those days. But like the Confederate draft, there were ways to avoid the

Union draft. Payment of \$300 could get you out of going or you could pay a substitute. It might seem odd to do that but you must remember that a lot of people were still coming to the Union from Europe. Many of these poor immigrants needed money for their families and a job in the army was a steady income.

The fact that wealthy people could avoid the war troubled many. "A rich man's war but a poor man's fight" became an argument against the draft. In many places, riots broke out in protest. From July 13 to July 16, 1863 New York City became the site of a huge riot. Many Irish immigrants had protested the draft and racial tensions led to the murders of many free blacks. So bad was the situation in New York that the military had to divert part of the army to go to the city and stop the violence.

Racial tension was a huge problem in the Union. Since the Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862, many people felt that the war was being fought to free the slaves and they weren't happy about that. Blacks who served in the Union



army were only allowed to serve in **segregated** units under white officers. They were thought by many in the military to be unfit for combat and thus were given responsibilities that kept them out of the fighting. They also had to deal with the threats from the Confederate side that if blacks in the Union uniform were captured they would be killed. Black soldiers also were discriminated against when it came to pay.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry regiment proved that the opponents to having blacks serve in combat were dead wrong. Instead of fleeing when confronted with battle, the 54<sup>th</sup> bravely led an attack on Fort Wagner, South Carolina in July 1863. Nearly 20% of the soldiers fell in the attack but proved that black soldiers would be effective soldiers despite the discrimination that surrounded them. You might want to check out the movie *Glory*. It's about that regiment and it's a really good movie.

**Lesson 4 Review Questions – (write answers in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper).**

1. Why did Lincoln wait until after the Battle of Antietam to release his Emancipation Proclamation?
2. Was the term "Copperhead" an insult? How did those who were called that feel about the term?
3. As a Civil War soldier, what were the odds that you would survive (percentage)? If you didn't survive, what would most likely cause your death?

## LESSON 5 – TURNING THE TIDE

**Main Idea:** *The early years of the war in the east were disastrous for the Union Army. 1863 would start out the same but it would also be the year when the Union would finally win some major battles in the east.*

### Fredericksburg & Chancellorsville

You will recall that President Lincoln fired General McClellan after the Battle of Antietam. Ambrose Burnside was promoted to lead the huge Army of the Potomac. Burnside came up with a plan to put the Union on the offensive again, attacking Lee's army in December 1862 near the town of Fredericksburg along the Rappahannock River in Virginia.

Without going into too much detail, Burnside's leadership proved dreadful. Robert E. Lee positioned his Confederate Army on the heights outside of Fredericksburg. Burnside ordered multiple frontal assaults on Lee's position and all of them turned back. The result was over 12,000 Union casualties compared to fewer than 5,500 for Lee. In January Lincoln fired Burnside and replaced him with Joseph Hooker.

Hooker rebuilt the army and attacked Lee's army in early May 1863. Using the advantage of outnumbering Lee more than 2 to 1, he divided his army and attacked the Confederates rear near the town of Chancellorsville. Hooker's **cavalry** had already been disrupting Lee's supply lines for weeks.

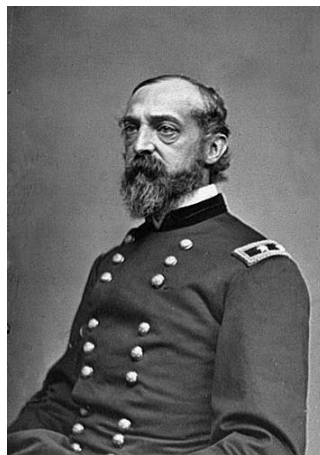
Unfortunately for Hooker, he hesitated. Lee then divided his army and went on the

counterattack. He had Stonewall Jackson's army march silently to the west and around to the Union flank. As Jackson's brigade attacked late in the afternoon of May 2, the Union army was caught by surprise, broke and ran. It was a huge defeat for the Union. But as Jackson attempted to continue attacking at night, he was accidentally shot by a Confederate sentry on his way back to his lines. His left arm was amputated but he contracted pneumonia after the surgery and died on May 10. Losing Jackson cost Lee his most capable general and was the only positive thing for the Union army to come out of the battle.

### The Battle of Gettysburg

After the overwhelming success at Chancellorsville, Lee again decided to invade the North. This time he would take his Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania. His goal was to draw out the Union Army of the Potomac, defeat them in yet another battle, and then be able to threaten the Northern cities of Harrisburg (Pennsylvania's capital), Philadelphia and ultimately Washington, D.C. Winning a strategic victory in the North could win the support of European countries and might even force Lincoln to negotiate a peace with the Confederacy. This was attempted before and Lee was stopped at the Battle of Antietam. It was risky but given the inability of the Union army's leaders, Lee figured his chances were good.

When Lee crossed the Potomac, Hooker responded too cautiously for Lincoln and he replaced Hooker with General **George Meade**. Lee made a fatal mistake when he allowed his cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart to ride around the Union army to the east as they pursued Lee northward. When the fighting started, Stuart's cavalry was out of touch and Lee was unable to use them. Both armies eventually converged on a



Union General George Meade

small, college town in southern Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. Lee's army desperately need supplies and they were hoping to find shoes for the soldiers. As part of Lee's army made for Gettysburg, they found that the Union cavalry had already beaten them there. On the first day of battle, the Union was able to occupy high ground, giving them an advantage to defend against Lee's attack.

The battle took place over three days. After the first day of fighting, the Union army held the high ground south of Gettysburg. Meade's army was laid out in the shape of a big hook. On the second day of fighting, Lee made several attempts to attack the Union flanks, hoping to enjoy the success he had at Chancellorsville. But on that second day the Union flanks held. One of the most important fights took place on a hill called Little Round Top. It was there that a division of men – the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine under the command of Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, withstood the Confederate attack and held the line.

After two days of heavy fighting and the Union army still holding the high ground, on the third day (July 3) Lee decided to order a frontal assault of the Union center. Lee ordered General **George Pickett's** brigade with over 12,000 men to attack the Union position. Bravely, the Confederates marched into heavy Union artillery in what became known as "Pickett's Charge". July 3, 1863 proved to be a disastrous day for Lee as Pickett's men were routed.



*Confederate General  
George Pickett*

Lee had clearly made a mistake and lost the battle. It was the first outright victory against him by the Union army. But Meade made an even bigger mistake. He failed to take this opportunity to pursue Lee's wounded

army as it made its way back into Virginia. It was the same mistake that McClellan had made after Antietam, and like McClellan, it cost him his job as leader of the Army of the Potomac. In the end, however, the Union victory at Gettysburg proved to be the ultimate turning point of the war. The Confederates would never again attempt to invade the North and their losses would continue to grow from this point forward.

## The Battle of Vicksburg

You will recall that part of the Union's Anaconda Plan was to control the Mississippi River and cut one-third of the Confederacy off from the east. In 1862 the Union navy took the city of New Orleans in the south and moved north up the Mississippi River. From the north, the Union army controlled the river south to the town of Vicksburg, Mississippi. It was that city, perched on a bluff overlooking the river that kept the Union from achieving total control of the river.

You will also remember that Ulysses S. Grant had defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. His Army of Tennessee had spent the next few months defeating the Confederates in and around Tennessee and Mississippi. In May 1863 Grant captured the state capital of Mississippi at Jackson and moved his army west to attack Vicksburg. Together with his



*Hillside dugouts in Vicksburg built by residents to shelter them from Union gunboat shelling.*



best general, **William Tecumseh Sherman**, Grant laid **siege** to Vicksburg.

Grant knew he outnumbered the Confederates holed up in Vicksburg and he knew that they were completely cut off from any resupply. He was content to wait them out. Union gunboats on the Mississippi shelled the town. The people of Vicksburg dug into the ground to get relief from the Union shelling. Supplies grew scarce for the military and civilian population. Finally, on July 3, 1863, the same day that Lee suffered his defeat at Gettysburg, the Confederates at Vicksburg surrendered. The Union now controlled the entire length of the Mississippi River. President Lincoln decided that his best general in the war was Grant and that he was the leader he needed in charge of the eastern Army of the Potomac.

### The Gettysburg Address

These days politicians don't get much credit for coming up with great speeches. It seems that the only things people are interested in now are 20 second soundbites that take up time on the nightly news. Things sure are different today than they were back in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Back then newspapers printed entire presidential speeches and people actually read them.

In November 1863 Abraham Lincoln made what some call today one of the greatest speeches of all time. You've probably even heard of the opening lines of the speech – "Four score and seven years ago ..." But do you know what it was about? It's an important speech because it accomplished a lot with just a few words.

First of all, you need to remember that Abraham Lincoln was not a really popular president in 1863. Despite recent victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, people held him responsible for the war and the massive number of casualties that resulted from it. Yet it was at the dedication of the National Cemetery at the site of the



Battle of Gettysburg that Lincoln would explain to the nation exactly what the war was all about.

After the Battle of Gettysburg, a movement was launched to formally bury the dead from both sides in a National Cemetery. The group in charge of the cemetery's dedication ceremony asked Edward Everett to be the main speaker. Everett had served in government and was president of Harvard University. He was known as one of the greatest speakers of the time period. President Lincoln was invited to say a few words to formally open the cemetery.

On November 19, 1863 Everett, after ceremonial music was played, gave a two hour speech. After applause for Everett died away, Lincoln stood up and gave a speech that lasted two to three minutes. The applause following the president's speech was delayed and scattered. Perhaps people were stunned by what they had heard. Even Lincoln seemed disappointed that he hadn't gotten his message across. But as the speech was printed in newspapers, there was a positive response by many across the country. Even Everett wrote Lincoln the next day saying, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes." Here is Lincoln's entire Gettysburg Address:

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and*

*dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

In this speech Lincoln begins by mentioning the Declaration of Independence and the idea that our country was based on the principle that “all men are created equal.” He next demonstrates that the Civil War is a test as to whether or not a nation based on that idea can survive. Lincoln concludes by saying that the purpose of this war is to preserve this Union – so that a

government of the people, this new experiment in democracy, will not end. The reason we fight this war is to prove that the ideas set forth at the nation’s founding will remain true.

The Gettysburg Address really is an incredible speech. He sets forth this idea that the conclusion of the war will lead to a “new birth of freedom”; that this country will be better than it was before the war. It was not only a hope of Lincoln’s but a belief that he was confident of achieving.

**Lesson 5 Review Questions – (write answers in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper).**

1. What was Lee hoping would result from a successful invasion of the North?
2. With the surrender of Vicksburg, what major waterway was now controlled by the North?
3. How was the Union draft unfair? How was the Confederate draft unfair?
4. Show at least two ways in which black Union soldiers were discriminated against.
5. According to Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, what was the purpose of fighting the Civil War?

## LESSON 6 – ENDING THE WAR

**Main Idea:** *1864 proved to be the turning point for the Union. By 1865 the Confederacy faced better Union generals and limited by their own ideas of government, they would finally capitulate<sup>8</sup>.*

<sup>8</sup> **capitulate** to surrender unconditionally, or on stipulated terms.



## More Problems for the Confederacy

As problems on the battlefield continued to mount for the Confederates, they found that they had some serious problems on the home front. Let's remember that the southern states seceded because they believed in states' rights. So when they developed the Confederate Constitution, they stressed that all of the power would belong to the states. That made fighting the war very difficult. You may remember that when America declared its independence from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War, it created a government under the old Articles of Confederation. This first American constitution was designed so as to make the national government weak and unlike the government of Great Britain. It turned out that this made coordinating a war against the British very difficult. Raising taxes and funding the military was nearly impossible. The new Confederate government found the same rough going with their weak national government.

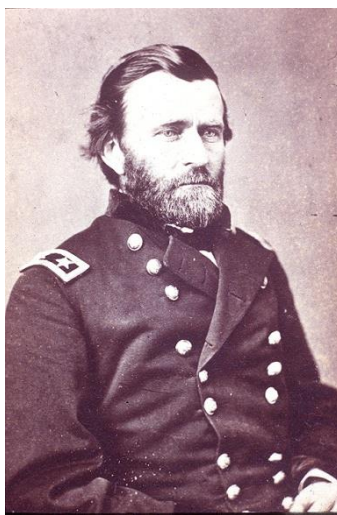
The southern states continuously argued with the Confederate government over taxes and the military. Southern politicians distrusted President Jefferson Davis and Davis didn't help matters much by trying to control as much of the decision making within the Confederate government. The Confederate economy was based on agriculture but the Union naval blockade had crippled the South's ability to sell cotton overseas. In a desperate attempt to force the British into helping the Confederacy, Davis placed an embargo on all southern cotton. He believed that the British would be so distressed that they'd have

to help out. But it turned out that the British were capable of growing their own cotton in other parts of the empire. While southern cotton bales rotted, the economy rotted along with them.



Hoping to solve the problem of massive debt, the Confederates printed more paper money. Since the government did not have the gold or silver to back up the currency, the value of the Confederate dollar plummeted and inflation skyrocketed. (We'll learn more about these things next year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade). The Union also printed paper money but because the war worked in their favor and because the government could eventually back up this money with gold or silver, inflation did not become a major problem.

Eventually things got so bad for the Confederacy that they considered allowing their slaves to fight in return for their freedom. The Anaconda Plan was working and although it took many long years to come to fruition<sup>9</sup>, the disadvantages of the south were too many to overcome.



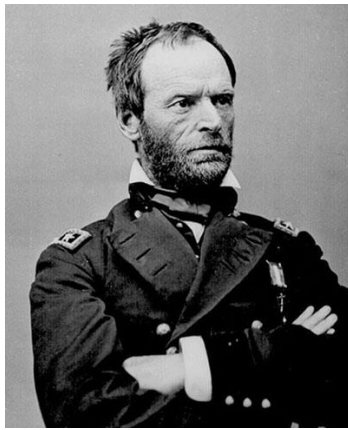
Union Commanding General  
Ulysses S. Grant

## Turning the Tide – Grant in Command

With Ulysses S. Grant now in charge of all Union armies, things finally began to change. Grant developed a coordinated plan to wear down the Confederates and defeat them over time. Grant understood that he had certain advantages that Lee did not – specifically an overwhelming superiority in the number of men he could put into the field, and the ability to be constantly resupplied. With this in mind, Grant employed a strategy of **attrition**. This

<sup>9</sup> **fruition**: Realization of something desired or worked for; accomplishment.

means that his number one goal was to eliminate the enemy's ability to fight. He figured that if he wore down Lee's army, the capital at Richmond would eventually fall and the war would end. Employing this strategy meant that Grant would accept high casualty rates within his own army. He knew he had more soldiers and supplies. If Confederates were killed at the same rate, ultimately there would still be more Union soldiers to carry on.



**General William Tecumseh Sherman – Leader of the Military Division of the Mississippi**

Grant coordinated his efforts with the other armies fighting in the west. General Sherman, Grant's trusted subordinate<sup>10</sup> when he led the army in the west, now was instructed to launch an attack through the heart of the Confederacy. Sherman's army marched out of Chattanooga, Tennessee and captured the major Georgia city of Atlanta, burning it to the ground. From there Sherman struck out in his famous "March to the Sea". His army cut a mile-wide path from Atlanta southeast to Savannah, Georgia, destroying everything in its path. This was a total war strategy. The goal was to destroy the South's ability to wage war. Sherman's army lived off the farms and plantations in its path but also destroyed materials it didn't need but could be used by the enemy. Sherman also wanted to send a message to the people of the South. He wanted them to know the disastrous results of becoming traitors to their country.

Meanwhile Grant was employing his best efforts to destroy Lee's army in Virginia. Lee knew things had changed in May 1864 with the Battle of the Wilderness. For two days they fought with neither side gaining an advantage. In the past, Union generals were content to end the fighting and regroup, which allowed Lee to do the same. Grant, instead, continued fighting. He would

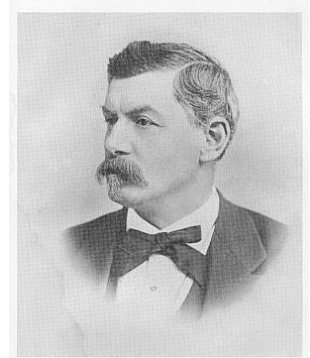
not give Lee an opportunity to rest and regroup. Grant had a numerical superiority and he used it to his advantage.

By June 1864 Grant's strategy of constantly putting Lee on the defensive was paying off. Despite suffering huge losses in the Battle of Cold Harbor, Grant refused to let up on Lee. For the first time, Lee was forced to have his army dig in (trenches, fortifications, etc.) to defend a key city. Lee was defending Petersburg, Virginia – a town with a railroad junction that

was important for the defense of the capital at Richmond, just a few miles away. As he had done at Vicksburg, Grant laid siege to the city. For nearly 10 months, Grant continued to assault Lee's army in Petersburg. With no hope of resupply and the number of men in his army shrinking, it was clear that Lee's once-great Army of Northern Virginia was on the ropes.

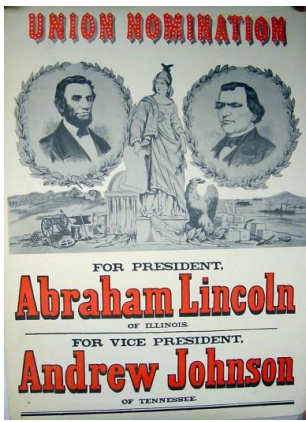
### The Election of 1864

When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, he did not have a majority of popular votes. This was because the Democratic Party split between Stephen Douglas (who died of typhoid fever and throat cancer in 1861) and John C. Breckinridge (who went on to become a Confederate general). Throughout the early years of the war Lincoln was a very unpopular president who got much of the blame for the war and the losing efforts of the Union army. It wasn't a sure thing that he would even win the nomination of the Republican Party for a second term.



**Democratic Candidate George McClellan**

<sup>10</sup> **subordinate**: an officer placed in or belonging to a lower order or rank.



Things began to change for Lincoln as the Union army scored impressive victories in 1864. The Republicans made him their candidate but, in an effort to appeal to the “War Democrats” they made a few changes. First of all,

they briefly changed the name of the party to the National Union Party (this was only for the election). Secondly, they dropped Lincoln’s vice president, Hannibal Hamlin, in favor of a Democrat from Tennessee named **Andrew Johnson**. During the war, Johnson remained a loyal Democrat and when the Union army gained control of Tennessee, Lincoln had appointed him military governor of that state. Putting Johnson on the ticket was supposed to attract Democratic voters, especially in the Border States. (Remember, the states still in rebellion were not voting).

The Democrats nominated former General George McClellan as their candidate for president in 1864. You’ll recall that McClellan had a strong dislike of Lincoln and always felt that he was the better man for the job. Nominating McClellan was supposed to attract the votes of many of the soldiers because, despite having lost his position as their commander, there was a genuine bond for who served under him. The biggest problem for the Democrats was their insistence on a negotiated peace with the Confederacy. This was largely due to Clement Vallandigham, who you will recall, was the most outspoken leader of the Copperheads. The “peace” plank of the Democratic political platform doomed them, especially as the war was turning in favor of the Union.

Lincoln won the election with 55% of the popular vote. He crushed McClellan in the electoral votes. After the election, the

National Union name was dropped and the term Republican returned. Despite that, Andrew Johnson never became a Republican but since he was to be the vice president, (a job with little significance), that never became an issue. But as you will soon see, Johnson’s party allegiance would play a huge role later on.



*Although it’s hard to see in this picture, Lincoln is giving his Second Inaugural Address. In the audience watching is John Wilkes Booth.*

## Lincoln’s 2nd Inaugural Address

You’ve already learned of one of Lincoln’s most famous speeches – the Gettysburg Address. But now you need to learn a little about another speech – one that many historians say is as good, or even better than the Gettysburg Address. On March 4, 1865 Lincoln delivered his Second Inaugural Address after being sworn into office for his second term as President of the United States. In this speech, Lincoln does not gloat over his victory or the impending fall of the Confederacy. Instead, he offers a vision of a reunited America – one that can bind its wounds and move forward. He takes the opportunity to show that slavery was evil and that the country has paid for this evil with years of bloodshed. Perhaps the most quoted line of his speech comes in Lincoln’s closing statement:



*With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan -- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.*

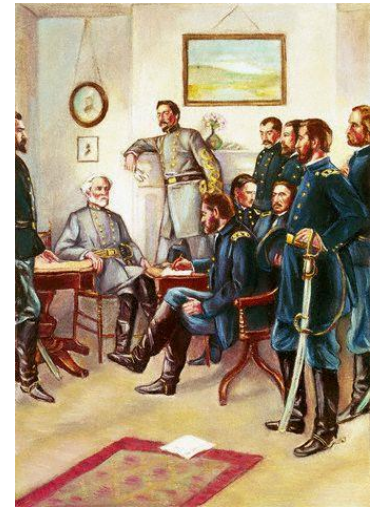
This speech is the launching pad for Lincoln's plan to rebuild the country after the war. Lincoln's version of Reconstruction would differ greatly from members of his own political party. Many of the "Radical Republicans" in Congress disagreed with Lincoln's generous nature when it came to Reconstruction. They wanted the South punished for the rebellion and sought to hold on to their political majority in Congress. Lincoln, on the other hand, wanted to see the country come together quickly, leaving the bad feelings of the war behind us.

### Lee Surrenders

On April 1, 1865 Union General Sheridan defeated Confederate General Pickett at the Battle of Five Forks. This victory doomed Lee's hold on the besieged city of Petersburg and he was forced to abandon the town. This also meant that Lee could no longer protect the Confederate capital at Richmond. The Confederate government was forced flee from Richmond but before leaving, the military destroyed much of the city to deny anything to the Union military. When Lincoln heard of the fall of Richmond, he set out to visit the city despite advice from his staff to avoid the area for fear of disgruntled Confederates who might try to kill him. But it was important to Lincoln to go to the "Confederate White House" and sit in Jefferson Davis' chair. Lincoln was greeted by former slaves and well-wishers in

Richmond. He must have been quite happy to see the end in sight.

As for Lee's army, he had retreated to an area called Appomattox Court House. After several battles, Lee knew it was the end. On April 9, 1865 Lee asked Grant for surrender terms. The two generals met in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's home. Grant's terms were very generous. He allowed the Confederate officers to keep their side arms (pistols) and their horses. Given that the enlisted men<sup>11</sup> would need to go back to their homes to plant crops, Grant also allowed them to keep any horses or mules they claimed to own. With Lee's surrender, the war was essentially over. Other elements of the Confederate army would remain for a time, but the major fighting was done.



The Confederate government dissolved itself on May 5, 1865 and Jefferson Davis was captured 5 days later and held in prison for two years for treason. He was released, eventually wrote his memoirs and died at age 81 in 1889. Robert E. Lee lost his home in Arlington, Virginia just across the Potomac from Washington, D.C. The Union army began using his plantation as a cemetery for the war dead. This grew into Arlington National Cemetery and Lee's home can still be visited there today. Lee went on to become the president of Washington College (now Washington & Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia until his death in 1870.

<sup>11</sup> **enlisted man:** any member of the armed services who is not a commissioned officer

**Lesson 6 Review Questions – (write answers in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper).**












1. What did the Confederate government do to solve the problem of its massive debt? What was the result?
2. How are the Union strategies of “attrition” and “total war” similar?
3. What was the point of putting a Democrat like Andrew Johnson on the presidential ticket with Abraham Lincoln in 1864?
4. In Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, he talks about his vision for the country after the war. What does he want to see happen?

**Extra Credit Question (worth 10 points – answer in complete sentences on a piece of loose-leaf paper)**

- There is a saying that “the Civil War began in Wilmer McLean’s front yard and ended in his front parlor”. Do some research – who was Wilmer McLean and what does this quote mean?
- New naval technology was developed during the Civil War. Both sides employed the use of “Ironclads” - ships that used iron or steel plating on their sides. Find out about the ships, *U.S.S. Monitor* and *C.S.S. Virginia* (formerly the *U.S.S. Merrimac*) and how their battle changed the course of naval history.
- Copperheads accused President Lincoln of trying to destroy the Bill of Rights. Even today, there is debate about Lincoln’s actions regarding the Constitution. Do some research – what are some of the specific arguments against Lincoln’s actions? What were some of his actions? Do you agree with Lincoln or his critics?
- Watch the 1989 movie *Glory*. How does the film compare to what you’ve learned in class?
- Just north of Chicago is Fort Sheridan, named after a famous Civil War General. Do some research – who was Philip Sheridan and how did he help the Union Army win the war during his time fighting Confederates in the Shenandoah Valley.
- In the summer of 1864 a Confederate Army under the command of General Jubal Early reached the outskirts of Washington, D.C. Find out what happened and explain why this was an embarrassing event for Abraham Lincoln.



## 1861-1865 Major Battle Summaries

<b>Battle &amp; Date</b>	<b>Union General</b>	<b>Confederate General</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Who Won?</b>
<b><u>First Bull Run</u></b> (July 1861)	Irwin McDowell	Stonewall Jackson	First big battle of the war. Union has advantage but Jackson halts Union advance causing untrained soldiers to flee back to Washington.	Confederates 
<b><u>Peninsula Campaign</u></b> (April to August 1862)	George McClellan	Joseph Johnston & Robert E. Lee	McClellan's plan to move up the Virginia peninsula to attack Richmond from the east. McClellan's slow and overly cautious movement costs him.	Confederates 
<b><u>Shiloh</u></b> (April 1862)	Ulysses S. Grant	Albert Sidney Johnston & P.G.T. Beauregard	Grant survives surprising Confederate attack. Launches counter-attack that defeats Beauregard.	Union 
<b><u>Second Bull Run</u></b> (August 1862)	John Pope	Robert E. Lee	Lee moves against Pope and defeats him. Pope's army forced back to Washington, D.C.	Confederates 
<b><u>Antietam</u></b> (September 1862)	George McClellan	Robert E. Lee	Lee invades Maryland but McClellan gets his plans. McClellan delays but stops Lee at Sharpsburg – but doesn't pursue Lee's retreat. Lincoln fires him. Victory allows Lincoln to release his Emancipation Proclamation.	Union? 
<b><u>Fredericksburg</u></b> (Dec. 1862)	Ambrose Burnside	Robert E. Lee	Burnside foolishly tries a repeated frontal assault on high ground held by Lee. He gets fired too.	Confederates 
<b><u>Chancellorsville</u></b> (May 1863)	Joseph Hooker	Robert E. Lee	Confederates stop Union attack – Jackson marches his army around the Union flank and launches a surprise attack. Jackson is shot by a Confederate picket and dies 8 days later.	Confederates 
<b><u>Gettysburg</u></b> (July 1863)	George Meade	Robert E. Lee	Union army stop Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania in 3 days of fighting. Lee launches a desperate attack with Pickett's charge on the last day, losing thousands.	Union 
<b><u>Vicksburg</u></b> (July 1863)	Ulysses S. Grant	John C. Pemberton	After months of siege, Grant is able to wait out the Confederates and take key city – victory gives the Union control of the Mississippi River.	Union 
<b><u>Chickamauga &amp; Chattanooga</u></b> (Sept. 1863)	Ulysses S. Grant	Braxton Bragg	Confederates broke through Union lines to attack Chattanooga, Tennessee. Grant & William Sherman shattered the Confederate army.	Union 
<b><u>Wilderness</u></b> (May 1864)	Ulysses S. Grant	Robert E. Lee	Grant attacks Lee in Virginia and despite heavy losses, he continues to press Lee. Lee can not regroup & is outnumbered by Grant	Union 
<b><u>Petersburg</u></b> (June 1864)	Ulysses S. Grant	Robert E. Lee	Lee is forced to dig defensive trenches to defend railroad junction a few miles away from Richmond. Grant lays siege to Petersburg for almost 10 months.	Union 
<b><u>Sherman's March to the Sea</u></b> (Nov.- Dec. 1864)	William T. Sherman	Various Confederate Generals	After capturing Atlanta, Georgia & burning it to the ground, Sherman cuts a mile-wide path through Georgia on his way to Savannah. He wages total war, destroying the South's ability to fight.	Union 