

## Chapter 16

# North and South Disagree

### THE CONFLICT WAGES ON LAND AND SEA

THE FIRST SHOT in the War Between the States was fired at daybreak, on the ninth of January, 1861. The *Star of the West* crossed the bar of Charleston harbor with supplies for Major Anderson and his troops. They were holding Fort Sumter for the Union after South Carolina had seceded. When the vessel was less than two miles from the fort, a hidden battery on Morris Island opened fire. One shell struck the ship. The captain turned around and went back to New York with his cargo.

War really began when a former student sent a message to his former teacher at West Point, demanding the surrender of Fort Sumter:

Headquarters Provisional Army C.S.A.  
Charleston, S.C.  
April 11, 1861, 2:00 P.M.

Maj. Robert Anderson  
Commanding at Fort Sumter  
Charleston Harbor, S.C.

SIR: The Government of the Confederate States has hitherto forborne from any hostile demonstration against Fort Sumter, in the hope that the Government of the United States, with a view to the amicable adjustment of all questions between the two Governments, and to avert the

calamities of war, would voluntarily evacuate it.

I am ordered by the Government of the Confederate States to demand the evacuation of Fort Sumter. My aids, Col. Chestnut and Capt. Lee, are authorized to make such demand of you. All proper facilities will be afforded for the removal of yourself and command — together with company arms and property, and all private property — to any post in the United States which you may elect. The flag which you have upheld so long, and with so much fortitude, under the most trying circumstances, may be saluted by you on taking it down. Col. Chestnut and Capt. Lee will, for a reasonable time, await your answer.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

G.T. Beauregard, Brig. Gen. Commanding

On the same day, Major Anderson sent his reply:

Headquarters Fort Sumter, S.C.  
April 11, 1861

To Brig. Gen. G.T. Beauregard  
Commanding Provisional Army C.S.A.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication demanding the evacuation of this fort, and to say in reply thereto that it is a demand with which I regret that my sense of honor and my obligation to my Government prevent my compliance.

Thanking you for the fair, manly, and courteous terms proposed, and for the high

compliment paid me, I remain, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Robert Anderson,  
Major U.S. Army, Commanding

The two men had long been friends at West Point, the United States Military Academy, and Anderson had chosen Beauregard to be his assistant there. After another exchange of notes between them came the last word, dated April 12, 1861, 3:20 A.M.:

Major Robert Anderson, United States Army,  
Commanding Fort Sumter

SIR: By authority of Brigadier General Beauregard, Commanding the Provisional Forces of the Confederate States, we have the honor to notify you that he will open the fire of his batteries on Fort Sumter in one hour from this time.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully,  
your obedient servants,

James Chestnut, Jr.,  
Aide-de-Camp  
Stephen D. Lee,  
Captain, C.S. Army and Aide-de-Camp

When the small remaining stock of cartridges allowed a gun to be fired only every ten minutes, and the troops were almost overcome with heat and smoke, Major Anderson hoisted a white flag. A messenger arrived soon after to arrange the terms of surrender. Major Anderson accepted them, as follows:

All proper facilities for the removal of yourself and command, together with company arms and private property, to any point within the United States you may select.

#### BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER

Fort Sumter, built on a sand bar in Charleston Harbor, was named in honor of Thomas Sumter, a hero of the Revolutionary War. Sumter waged guerrilla warfare upon the British in the Carolinas.

Although under frequent bombardment, the Confederates held Fort Sumter until forced to evacuate it when General Sherman approached Atlanta.

*Currier and Ives*



Apprised that you desire the privilege of saluting your flag on retiring, I cheerfully concede it, in consideration of the gallantry with which you have defended the place under your charge.

G.T. Beauregard

After a bullet-riddled flag had been saluted and lowered, Major Anderson and his troops boarded the Confederate vessel, *Isabel*, where they spent the night. A report from an Army engineer briefly stated the end:

April 14. — The *Isabel* went over the bar and placed the whole command on board the steamer *Baltic*, which started to New York. April 17. — Arrived in New York.

Soon after the surrender of Fort Sumter, Virginia seceded, followed by North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee. The mountain people of Virginia remained loyal to the Union. In 1863, they formed the new state of West Virginia. The states of Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri on the border, where opinion was divided, did not secede.

Forts, arsenals, stores of ammunition, and buildings of the Federal Government were taken over by the Confederacy. Although war had actually begun, neither side realized that the struggle would last four years. Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers. Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, issued a call for 100,000 volunteers. Both sides began training their armies. Many officers in the Confederate army were graduates of West Point and had served in the Mexican War, an advantage for the South initially. Robert E. Lee, son of “Light Horse” Harry Lee, who fought under Washington in the Revolutionary War, wrote a letter to General Winfield Scott, under whose command he had served in the Mexican

War. Lee asked Scott to accept his resignation as Colonel of the First Regiment of Cavalry, United States Army. He closed his letter, written in his home in Arlington, Virginia with these lines:

Save in defense of my native State, I never desire again to draw my sword. Be pleased to accept my most earnest wishes for the continuance of your happiness and prosperity, and believe me,  
Most truly yours,  
R.E. Lee

General Robert E. Lee led the Confederate forces during the War Between the States, his main work being the defense of Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy which was moved from Montgomery Alabama; and drawing the plans to repel the invasion of Union forces throughout the southern states.

Early in July of 1861, Congress of the United States voted for an army of 500,000 men. Anxious to settle the war before it really gained headway, raw recruits under General Irvin McDowell met the Confederate forces under General G.T. Beauregard and General Joseph E. Johnston at Manassass, about thirty-five miles from Washington. The fighting took place along a little stream called Bull Run, and the engagement is commonly known as the Battle of Bull Run. By the evening of July 21, the untrained recruits of the Union army were fleeing back to Washington in panic. When untrained Confederate troops were also fleeing the battle, an officer pointed to the well-drilled brigade of Thomas J. Jackson, shouting:

“Look! There is Jackson standing like a stone wall!”

After this taste of war, both sides spent the remainder of the year training their soldiers. George B. McClellan, a stern

drillmaster, took over the Army of the Potomac. Except for skirmishes in the border states, the largest being at Wilson's Creek, Lexington, and Milford in Missouri, little progress was made on land. Ft. Hatteras in North Carolina and Port Royal in South Carolina were captured by the Union. However, by the end of 1861, both sides had developed plans for carrying on the war.

The Union plan was to blockade the ports of the southern states; to open the Mississippi River and divide the Confederacy; to separate the Gulf States from the Atlantic States; to capture Richmond. War began in earnest in 1862 when these plans began to operate.

Defense was the only plan of war possible for the Confederates, since their country would be invaded. With farming as the main industry, the people of the South largely depended upon the North and Europe for their manufacturing needs. While gradually building some small factories for producing arms, after war broke out, supplies were gathered elsewhere. The Confederates gleaned guns and shells from battlefields and prisoners. But the main supply of munitions was smuggled through the Union blockade by the low, small, compactly built blockade runners which carried cotton to the West Indies to be traded for these necessities.

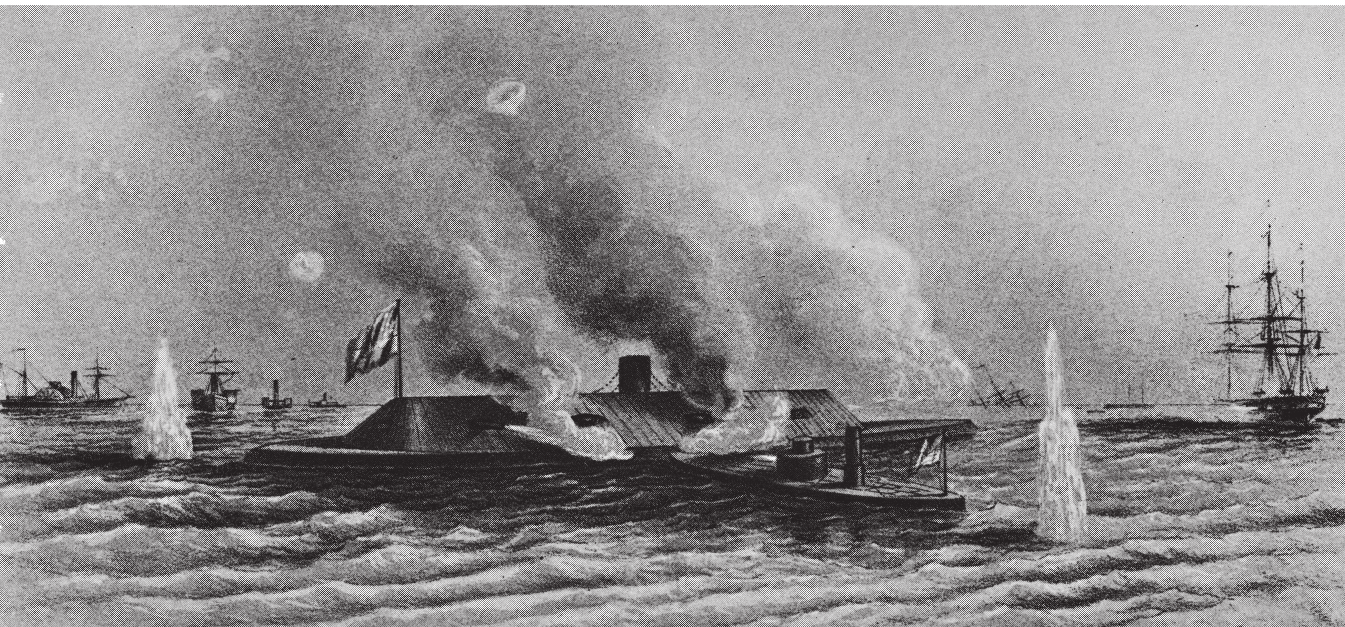
## THE BLOCKADE

SOON AFTER the firing on Fort Sumter, Lincoln declared a blockade of southern ports. He intended to prevent the sale of cotton, rice, and other products in foreign countries and the purchase of ammunition, cloth, and other supplies that

the South needed to carry on the war. In northern shipyards armed cruisers were built to patrol the sea lanes. These cruisers had orders not only to sink and capture the blockade runners, but to protect the merchant marine of the Union from the plucky privateers and well armed raiders.

At Norfolk the Confederates raised a sunken frigate, the *Merrimac*. After repairing this wooden vessel, they covered it with iron plates four inches thick. On a spring day in 1862 this monster steamed into the mouth of the James River to attack the Union warships. The ironclad rammed and sank the *Cumberland* and fired the *Congress*, a frigate with fifty guns. During the battle, shells from the batteries on shore peppered the ironclad, but failed to sink it. In the early evening, hampered by the tide, the *Merrimac* withdrew, intending to return at daylight the next morning to continue the attack on the Union fleet.

That night, another ironclad, guided by the light of the burning *Congress*, steamed quietly into Hampton Roads. It was the *Monitor*, designed by a Swede, John Ericsson, for the Union Navy. Confident of victory, the *Merrimac* returned the next day. A surprise was in store for the Confederate crew. Coming out to greet them was a queer little ship which looked "like a cheesebox on a raft." Soon, heavy gunfire began to spout from the turret. The gunners on the *Merrimac* answered with a broadside. After a battle of several hours the duel of the ironclads ended in a draw. The side of the *Merrimac* was caved in and the captain of the *Monitor* was wounded by a shell that struck the pilot house. Although not a man was killed, this naval battle was one of the most important in history. It sounded the death knell of



**BATTLE BETWEEN THE IRONCLADS, MONITOR AND VIRGINIA  
(MERRIMAC), MARCH 9, 1862, HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA**

Although the Confederates changed the name of the remodeled *Merrimac* to *Virginia*, the original name clung to the vessel. Neither vessel lasted long after the famous battle. The Confederates blew up the *Virginia* when they evacuated Norfolk two months later. In the following December, the *Monitor* sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

wooden warships and put all the navies of the world out of date. Nations had to begin to build new fleets with ships of steel.

Unable to build a strong navy, the Confederacy resorted to privateering to get supplies through the blockade. During the War Between the States, fortunes were won and lost in the dangerous and exciting venture of privateering.

### **SALLIE TURNS PRIVATEER**

SALLIE WAS A SMART clipper, built on Long Island in 1856 and christened the *Virginia*. The name was changed when the new owners asked the President of the Confederate States of America for a letter of marque, giving them the authority to seize any armed or unarmed United States

vessel, public or private. On October 9, 1861, the privateer, trim and fleet, left the dock in Charleston harbor. The skipper was Captain Henry S. Leiby. It was six o'clock that evening when the vessel crossed North Edisto bar and sailed into the open sea. No Union blockaders were in sight. The forty-odd men on board were patriotic pirates defending the Confederacy. The first day out, not a single sail hove into view.

Sometimes, however, luck came day after day. The following items were copied from official government records:

On October 1, 1861, the brig *B.K. Eaton* of Searsport, Maine, — W.C. Nichols, master, was captured by the privateer, *Sallie*. Crew and captain were carried to Charleston, thence to Columbia, and to Richmond, and were prisoners with others until sent on to Washington. Brig *B.K. Eaton* sailed from New York loaded with lime and cement, in employment of the government.

Captain Pettengill made a report of the capture of his vessel, *Granada*, of Portland, Maine, bound for New York:

On night of October 2, I fell in with and was taken possession of by the privateer *Sallie*, Captain Leby, three days out of Charleston; and from her transferred three days later to the British schooner *Greyhound*. We arrived at New York today. The *Sallie* sailed southeast after leaving us, in search of coffee vessels from Rio.

In a little over three weeks the privateer captured six merchant vessels with valuable cargoes, without being fired upon by a northern blockader. One black night the *Sallie* had a narrow escape. It was Halloween and the wind was high. A steam frigate of the enemy, on patrol in southern waters, passed so near in the darkness that a watchman on the privateer heard the ship's bell strike seven and the Union sentinel call out, "All's Well!"

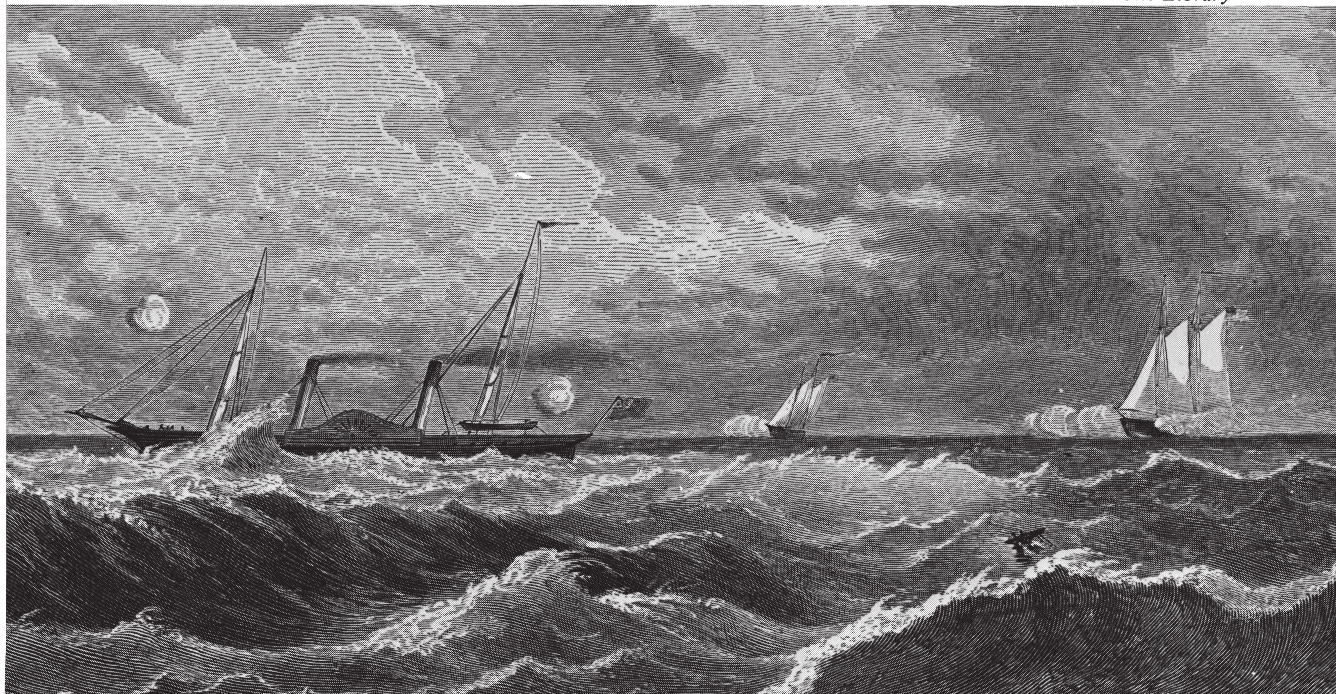
The privateer's first voyage ended when a United States cruiser gave chase. The captain of the *Sallie* outran the man-of-war and reached the shallow bar ahead of capture. Several times the vessel almost stuck in the sand, only to be washed afloat again by heavy billows crashing into foam on the hidden shelf. The *Sallie* reached safety in Charleston harbor, leaving her pursuer outside, beyond the choppy bar, in the open sea. The owners of the privateer agreed to divide the big profits of the first trip and sell the boat for \$3200 rather than risk capture on a second venture.

As a blockade runner, carrying on foreign trade, and not as a privateer, capturing ships at sea, the *Sallie* sailed out of Charleston harbor with a cargo of cotton, turpentine, and rice. Sneaking through the Union blockade, her captain delivered the produce to a British freighter waiting at a port in the West Indies. For the

#### UNION VESSELS CHASING A BLOCKADE RUNNER

Built low and long, these fleet ships challenged the Union blockade. In the West Indies, they traded cargoes of cotton for arms and supplies to support the war effort in the Confederacy.

*New York Public Library*



return trip through blockaded waters, he took on a cargo of guns, ammunition, and bolts of cloth. In this way southern cotton reached the mills of Manchester and Birmingham. British-made goods supplied some of the needs of the Confederacy. The plucky little clipper running the blockade survived the four years of war and escaped capture by Union patrols.

The blockade of southern ports was a powerful weapon in the hands of the North. It hastened the defeat of the Confederate States. As the war progressed, the blockade tightened its grip on the South. Fewer products were exported and fewer articles were imported. Prices rose to dizzy heights, even on common articles of food. In the *Mobile Tribune* of May 9, 1863, lard was advertised at \$1.15 per pound; vinegar at \$1 a gallon; and mustard, \$5 a bottle.

Early in August of 1864, Admiral Farragut with twenty-six ships and a land force attacked Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan guarding Mobile Bay, a harbor for blockade runners bringing supplies for the Confederate war effort from ports in the West Indies. After a fierce naval battle with Confederate ships blocking entrance to the ship channel, and the firing from land, the forts surrendered. This Union victory sealed off Mobile from blockade runners and was a blow to the Confederacy.

While Union gunboats were operating south from Cairo, Illinois, Flag-Officer David Glascoe Farragut, commanding the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, received word that a squadron of bomb-vessels under Commander D.D. Porter would join his fleet. When these vessels arrived, his orders were to attack the forts guarding New Orleans — Ft. St. Philip on the eastern bank of the Mississippi

River, and Ft. Jackson opposite on the western bank.

On a dark night with a haze over the water, Farragut gave the order to advance up the Mississippi River, blocked with heavy chains. The fleet was soon discovered and the battle began. Guns on Union mortar boats engaged in a duel with guns in the forts. Confederate warships shelled and rammed the invading fleet. Fire rafts floated dangerously among the vessels. Through the debris of a fierce battle, Farragut reached New Orleans on April 24, 1862 and demanded the surrender of the city. The mayor defiantly refused to lower the Confederate flag on the City Hall, although troops under General Lovell had departed to escape capture. With Union soldiers, General Benjamin F. Butler occupied New Orleans, closing the port to blockade runners and supplies from foreign countries. However, the capture of New Orleans still left most of the Mississippi River under Confederate control between that city and Cairo.

When Lincoln became President, the United States Navy had forty-two ships carrying one hundred and eighty-two guns with which to start a blockade immediately. In December of 1864, the Navy had nearly 700 vessels and others being built. Of these, the fastest ships-of-war were divided into four squadrons: the North Atlantic, the South Atlantic, the Eastern Gulf Squadron, and the Western Gulf Squadron. To outrun the Union fleet, the long, narrow, low-in-the-water and swift blockade runner, painted a dull gray, was built in British shipyards for the Confederate Navy. This naval war gradually reduced supplies for the South and hastened the end of the conflict, not only on the sea but also on the inland rivers.

## OPENING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN)

THE GOAL IN THE WEST was to gain control of the Mississippi River and cut off supplies, especially food, coming from Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana to maintain the Confederate Army. Early in February, 1862, A.H. Foote, commanding gunboats, and Ulysses S. Grant, in charge of an army, left Cairo to attack Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Foote's gunboats won a victory, and Fort Henry was taken. While Foote was moving his small fleet back to the Ohio River and up the Cumberland to Fort Donelson, Grant marched his men overland through mud, sleet and snow. After a number of Confederates had escaped down the river and over flooded

roads, General S.B. Buckner asked Grant for terms of surrender. He replied:

"No terms, except an immediate and unconditional surrender, can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."

Thus, Grant acquired the nickname of "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

After the fall of Fort Donelson, Union armies pushed south in Tennessee to meet the Confederate defenders in one of the bloodiest battles of the war at Shiloh Church in Pittsburg Landing. The South lost General Albert Sidney Johnston in this battle in which able leaders of both armies were engaged. The Confederates included Beauregard, Bragg, and Johnston. On the Union side were Grant, Sherman, and Buell.

### NAVAL COMBAT OFF FORT WRIGHT IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAY 8, 1862

This sketch of the battle between Union and Confederate gunboats at Fort Wright, north of Memphis, Tennessee is typical of the combats on the Mississippi River from Cairo to New Orleans. Union men in row boats are rescuing Confederates from their sinking ship, the *Mallory*, after it was rammed by the Union ironclad, the *St. Louis*.

*Harper's Weekly*, 1862





In opening up the Mississippi River from the north, Union forces were busy clearing out pockets of resistance behind them on the west side of the river. Grant met his first gunfire at Belmont, Missouri, in November of 1861, after leaving Cairo, Illinois. Then followed the battles of Pea Ridge, Missouri; New Madrid, Missouri; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; Island No. 10, Tennessee; Memphis, Tennessee; and six months later, closing the year of 1862, Prairie Grove, Arkansas.

Soon after Shiloh, President Lincoln appointed Grant commander of Union forces in Tennessee and Mississippi. Grant mapped a campaign to capture the strong Confederate base closing the Mississippi River at Vicksburg.

As the campaign in the West slowly progressed, Lincoln considered the drastic measure of freeing the slaves in the seceded states in order to win more northern support and hasten the end of the war.

## LINCOLN'S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

MANY CONSCIENTIOUS PERSONS, strongly opposed to slavery, felt it would be a great injustice to the Negroes to free them all at one time, when they had no place to go. During the 1830's and 1840's when the spirit of reform was sweeping over the nation, the American Colonization Society supported a plan to solve humanely the problem of slavery. The plan was to return the Negro to his homeland, from which he had been taken against his wishes. The slaves would be sent to the African republic of Liberia. There they would be free men and both slavery and the slave trade would be forbidden by law.

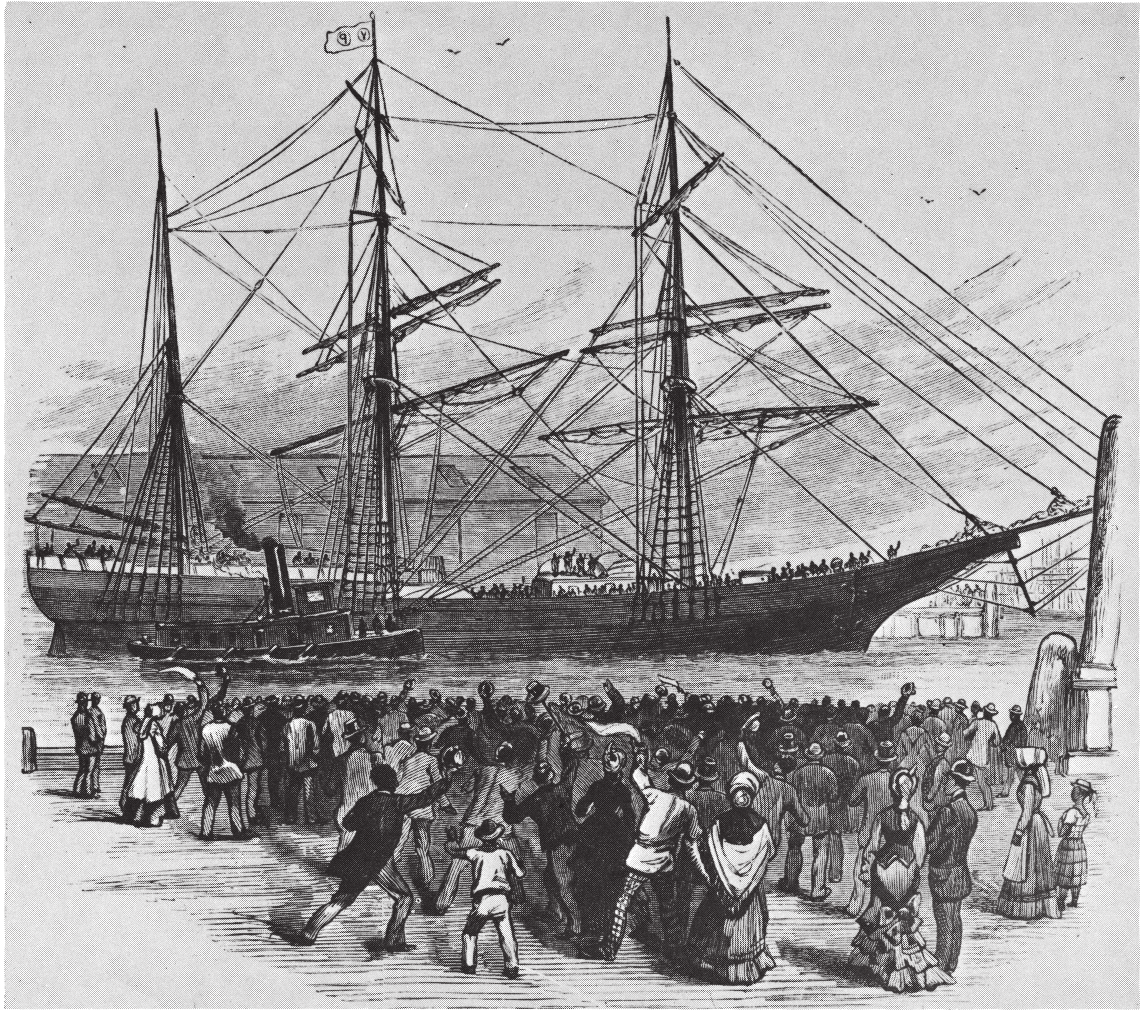
Children all over the country saved their pennies and brought them to Sunday schools to support this project. Hundreds of Negro families were transported to Liberia with these funds. There they could start life all over again in their own republic in their native Africa. In the *Norfolk Herald* in 1850 this news item appeared:

The ship, *Liberia Packet* from Baltimore, has arrived in Hampton Roads, where she received on board yesterday the colored emigrants who have been collecting here for some days previous. They amount in all to 141 persons – 59 from North Carolina, 49 from the Valley of Virginia, and 33 from Lower Virginia. A large part of them are children and young persons. Most of them were emancipated for the purpose of emigration; the rest were born free.

Lincoln's plan was to free the slaves gradually, a few here and there. He would allow the planters time to find other laborers for their fields and industry time to find jobs for the new freedmen. To the end, he believed that slaveholders should be repaid for their losses. With a pencil and pad Lincoln figured that all the slaves in the loyal border states could be purchased for \$400 a head, and the total sum be no more than the cost of 87 days of war. No bloodshed, no destruction, no heartaches.

In the summer of 1862, the second year of the war, Lincoln invited prominent leaders in Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and the mountain region of Virginia (West Virginia in 1863) to come to Washington to talk over this plan. The men from the border states told the President that soldiers from their states were giving their lives on the battlefields to save the Union and not to free the Negroes.

In the states which had seceded, slaves were toiling to support the war against the North. They raised food for the soldiers



*New York Public Library*

**Free Negroes boarding ship to settle in the Liberian Republic on the western coast of Africa.**

and erected fortifications on the battlefields. Some Negroes carried guns and followed their masters as soldiers of the Confederacy. With his wartime powers as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy, the President had the authority to do anything that would hinder the enemy and shorten the war. As a war measure, then, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring:

That on the first day of January, 1863, all persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.

This act freed the slaves in the rebellious states. It did not free the slaves in the border states nor in loyal sections of seceded states. It won the abolitionists to stronger

support of the war and made many people in other countries the friends of the North. The aim of the war was now two-fold: preserve the Union and abolish slavery.

The news of the proclamation leaked through to remote plantations of the South and created a problem. Many Negroes packed their few belongings in any old cart or homemade wagon they could get and started down the road. They did not know where they were going nor how they were going to get there. They only knew that they wanted to work for "Massa Link'un." These homeless families were a burden to the Union armies who were obliged to provide them with food, clothing, and medicine. Most of them, however, were willing workers and did chores around camp. Some officers organized Negro regiments.

Many slaves, when freed, chose to remain on the plantations of their owners where they had something to eat, a place to sleep, and a master's family to take care of them. The thousands who deserted their homes had their freedom but they often suffered from cold, hunger, and neglect. As Lincoln had hoped, the emancipation of the slaves hampered the war effort in the South. With the master gone to war and no slaves to do the work, plantation after plantation fell into ruin. The crops withered in the fields. There were few jobs for the new freedmen because their former owners had little or no money to pay them wages. Both whites and blacks suffered alike in the upheaval. The Emancipation Proclamation was a blow to the Confederacy.

## FALL OF VICKSBURG

THE COMBINED MANEUVERS of Grant and Sherman prevented General

Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate commander in the West, from joining forces with Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton who was defending Vicksburg. The Union armies on land and gunboats on the Mississippi River laid siege to Vicksburg.

While the Battle of Gettysburg was being fought in Pennsylvania, the long siege of Vicksburg was ending in Mississippi. For six weeks the river town had been shut off from the world. Grant's army guarded the land approach and Porter's gunboats shelled the river front. The townspeople were near starvation. The only meat left was mule flesh. Other foods on hand were rice, sugar, molasses, and a little corn.

About eight o'clock on the morning of July 3, 1863, a white flag was raised above the Confederate fort. In a short time two officers in Confederate gray were led, blindfolded, into the Union lines. They carried a message from their commander, Lieutenant General Pemberton, asking for terms of surrender. Grant replied with the same terms offered to the commander of Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River, in 1862, when he acquired the nickname of "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. Then he paid this compliment to the enemy:

At the same time, myself and men, and officers of this army testify to the distinguished gallantry with which the defense of Vicksburg has been conducted.

At three in the afternoon Pemberton and Grant met in a grove of peach and fig trees. After shaking hands they sat down on the grass. The two men were friends. They had fought together at Buena Vista and Monterey in the Mexican War. Pemberton, somewhat embarrassed, pulled up blades of grass while Grant puffed on his long cigar. The commanders talked for more than an

hour while both Union and Confederate soldiers looked on from a distance – and wondered. Would the terms be harsh?

The next day was the Fourth of July. After the Confederates had stacked their arms and surrendered their ammunition, Union bands led their regiments into the city of Vicksburg. The musicians played southern songs as well as northern airs to the delight of the crowds that jammed the sidewalks. Under Rear Admiral Porter the Union Navy paraded on the Mississippi River. Gay pennants and signal flags trimmed the ironclads from stem to stern. Dressed in white the sailors lined the railings and waved their hats to the crowds on the steaming levee. The day was hot and humid. Everyone appeared to be excited except Grant. Riding through the streets he calmly puffed his cigar as if the victory was nothing more than another day's work.

Grant's victory at Vicksburg caused the fall of Port Hudson, north of Baton Rouge. It opened the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, cutting the South in two. There was great rejoicing in the North. In *Harper's Weekly* a poem appeared, celebrating the event beginning with these lines:

The Opening of the Mississippi River  
Hail! mighty river!  
Free from thy springs to the sea forever,  
From thy mountain springs to the Southern Sea.  
Free heritage of the millions free.

## TO DIVIDE THE CONFEDERACY AGAIN

AFTER THE FALL of Vicksburg and the opening of the Mississippi River, a new campaign began to divide the Confederacy by driving a wedge between the Gulf States and the Atlantic seaboard. Plans for both

the Union attack and the Confederate defense centered in eastern Tennessee where deposits of coal, iron, and nitrate were being used in manufacturing guns and ammunition for the Confederate armies. The focal point was Chattanooga.

With General Burnside approaching Knoxville through Cumberland Gap on the east, and Sherman ready to move from the Mississippi River on the west, General Braxton Bragg evacuated Chattanooga to escape the danger of being cut off from supplies. On September 19 and 20, 1863, after General James Longstreet arrived with troops from Virginia, Bragg faced the Union army under General William S. Rosecrans at Chickamauga in northern Georgia. Although General George H. Thomas held his section of Union troops on the field until dark on the last day, the Confederates won the battle. For his stand, Thomas was named, "The Rock of Chickamauga," and soon replaced Rosecrans.

A month later, after closing the Mississippi campaign, Grant arrived in Chattanooga to take command of all the Union forces. When Sherman reached Chattanooga with more troops, Grant made plans to break out of the city, walled in with mountains and occupied by Confederates. He dispatched Hooker with soldiers outnumbering the enemy six to one, to Lookout Mountain. In a dense fog, about five hundred feet from the top, a fight took place, known in history as "The Battle above the Clouds."

On the same day, with the same advantages in numbers, Grant sent Sherman to Missionary Ridge, but the decisive battle was not fought until the next day. When Sherman's advance was repulsed, Grant sent Thomas to capture the rifle pits at the

bottom of the ridge. To the surprise of the Union officers in charge, the men started climbing the rugged face of the mountain and kept on climbing although the Confederate defenders rolled rocks and cannonballs down the steep slope. After Missionary Ridge was taken on November 25, 1863, Bragg's army retreated, leaving Chattanooga to the Union. President Davis replaced him with General Joseph E. Johnston.

After the victory at Chattanooga, Grant sent reinforcements to relieve Burnside under siege by Longstreet's Corps in Knoxville. A few days before these Union troops arrived, after failing to take the city in a final assault, Longstreet retreated to the North Carolina border and later joined Lee in Virginia. The way was opened into Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Lincoln summoned Grant to Washington. On March 9, 1864, in the White House, the President promoted Ulysses S. Grant to the highest rank in the United States Army, giving him command of all the armies. Grant took the field in Virginia and appointed General William Tecumseh Sherman to his former command in the West. Sherman outlined a plan to take Atlanta, and after many skirmishes, entered the city on the second day of September, although the Confederates under General Nathan Bedford Forrest and General John H. Morgan continued the fight behind him and threatened his supply lines.

After destroying railroads, machine shops, factories, munitions, and food stores in Atlanta, Sherman divided his army into four parts. The four sections followed four separate routes, cutting a path of destruction forty to sixty miles wide through the state of Georgia. His orders to his soldiers were: "Forage for your

food." What did this mean to the people living in the path of the invading army? In his report to military headquarters at Washington Sherman wrote:

We have consumed the corn and fodder in the region of country thirty miles on either side of a line from Atlanta to Savannah, as also the sweet potatoes, cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry, and have carried away more than ten thousand horses and mules, as well as a countless number of slaves. I estimate the damage done to the state of Georgia and its military resources at one hundred millions of dollars; at least twenty millions of which has been to our advantage, and the remainder is simple waste and destruction.

Sherman's march from Atlanta to Savannah enraged the southerners more than any other event of the War Between the States. It was a harsh measure but it hastened the end of the war by destroying the main sources of supply for the Confederate armies.

With only about 15,000 poorly equipped soldiers to defend Savannah, General William J. Hardee arranged for surrender, and then left the city, taking his troops to join the Confederate army of General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. A few days before Christmas, 1864, Sherman's Army occupied Savannah, five weeks after leaving Atlanta. A few weeks later, these Union soldiers started north through the Carolinas toward Virginia, living off the country and destroying property. Sherman was on his way to join Grant in Virginia, the main battleground of the war.

## THE VIRGINIA CAMPAIGN

THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES began and ended in Virginia. For four years, armies advanced and retreated within the

borders of the state while Confederate soldiers tried to reach Washington, and Union soldiers tried to capture Richmond. Although the contending armies met first at Manassas, the Battle of Bull Run, in 1861, the organized campaign in Virginia did not get under way until the spring of 1862. George B. McClellan, leader of the Army of the Potomac, decided to transport his troops to Fortress Monroe and attack Richmond by moving up the peninsula between the James River and the York River.

After losing a month in the siege of Yorktown, which gave the Confederates time to build defenses of their capital, General McClellan advanced to Fair Oaks and fought a battle about eight miles from Richmond. Meanwhile Stonewall Jackson's raids up the Shenandoah Valley were a constant threat to Washington. Between June 25 and July 1, 1862, the combined forces of Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and James Longstreet defended Richmond in the Seven Days' Battle at Mechanicsville, Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, Glendale or Frazer's Farm, and Malvern Hill. In seven days of fighting, the Confederate loss in killed and wounded doubled that of the Union, but McClellan lost seven to one in prisoners. Total casualties for the South were nearly 21,000, and for the North, almost 16,000.

With the peninsular campaign a failure, McClellan retreated to be nearer Washington. After driving back the Army of the Potomac to the defense of the national capital, Lee marched with Stonewall Jackson through Frederick, Maryland on his first invasion of the North. They fought the Battle of Antietam, and recrossed the Potomac River into Virginia. A few days later, on September 22, Lincoln called his

cabinet to a meeting and read his Proclamation of Emancipation — to become law on January 1, 1863, if the war continued. Early in November of 1862, Lincoln removed McClellan and gave the command of the Army of the Potomac to General Ambrose E. Burnside. The people in the North had lost their confidence in McClellan who, they thought, moved too slowly — they wanted fewer defeats.

Burnside planned to capture Richmond by advancing due south. After crossing the Rappahannock River on pontoon bridges, he met Lee's army at Fredericksburg on the thirteenth of December, lost the battle, and retreated across the river. Thus ended 1862, without victory for either side, and the war continued, not only in Virginia, but also in the West. On the last day of the year, General William S. Rosecrans checked the advance of a Confederate army under General Braxton Bragg near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Six weeks after Burnside's defeat at Fredericksburg, Lincoln appointed General Joseph Hooker, the "fighting general," to his command. After reorganizing his army, Hooker advanced toward Richmond. On the first of May a battle developed at Chancellorsville, which lasted several days. In a flank attack, Jackson helped Lee to defeat the Union army, and forced Hooker to retreat across the Rappahannock River. It was a costly victory, however. During a lull in the battle, Jackson and some of his staff were riding in front of the Confederate lines at dusk to observe the Union moves. Thinking the men on horseback were enemy scouts, Jackson and his party were fired upon by their own men. Jackson was seriously wounded and died a few days later. Lee wrote to his son:

"You will have heard of the death of

General Jackson. It is a terrible loss. I do not know how to replace him. Any victory would be dear at such a cost . . . ”

After Chancellorsville, both Hooker and Lee rested their armies. Lee had received recruits and decided to invade Pennsylvania. Since many enlistments in Hooker’s army would end in June, Lincoln issued a proclamation on June 15, calling 100,000 state militia into the Union armies. When Lee’s army headed toward the Shenandoah Valley, Hooker started north. At Frederick, Maryland, Hooker was replaced by General George C. Meade. Lee’s army was crossing the border of Pennsylvania and the people had no faith in the man who had lost the Battle of Chancellorsville. Meade marched north to keep the Army of the Potomac between Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and the city of Washington. Neither Lee nor Meade chose Gettysburg for a battlefield. They merely happened to meet there.

The little town of Gettysburg nestles in a mile-wide valley formed by two ridges, shaped like a horseshoe. Upon these ridges the two armies struggled for three days in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. The fight began on the morning of July first. It ended during the night of July third after Pickett’s brave but disastrous charge up Cemetery Ridge. Almost half of the 15,000 men who charged the Union lines did not return. During that night Lee’s troops retreated into Maryland. They left their dead and wounded on the field of battle.

The next morning General Meade, in command of the Union Army, prepared his weary men for another attack. None came. Instead of fighting, the Union soldiers observed the Fourth in carrying off the wounded and burying the dead. The peaceful little village of Gettysburg was one

vast hospital. After three days of hiding in cellars from shells that toppled chimneys and wrecked houses, the citizens came out to care for the wounded, both Union and Confederate. The casualties at Gettysburg were frightful, with over 43,000 men killed, wounded, or missing. Never again did a Confederate army invade the North. The Fourth of July in 1863 marked the turning point of the War Between the States. Lee’s defeat at Gettysburg uncovered Richmond and opened the railroad lines of Virginia to enemy attack. Grant’s victory at Vicksburg cleared the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico.

### LINCOLN SPEAKS AT GETTYSBURG

ON THE NINETEENTH of November in 1863, the little town of Gettysburg was crowded with visitors. They had come from many states to see the dedication of a national cemetery. It was the last resting place of the Union and Confederate soldiers who had fallen in the Battle of Gettysburg.

The speaker for this important event was Edward Everett, a brilliant man and a famous orator. After the opening prayer Everett stepped to the front of the outdoor platform to face the huge crowd, standing on the same ridge where so many men had died. Everett began to speak:

Overlooking these broad fields now reposing from the labors of the waning year, the mighty Alleghenies dimly towering above us, the graves of our brethren beneath our feet, it is with hesitation that I raise my poor voice to break the eloquent silence of God and Nature. But the duty to which you called me must be performed.

It was. He spoke for two hours in the polished language of a learned man. Behind him on the platform sat the President, Cabinet officials, state governors, and army officers. Once during the long speech Lincoln drew two small sheets of paper from a coat pocket and glanced at them. When Everett finally sat down, a glee club from Baltimore sang an ode composed for this occasion. Then Lincoln rose slowly from his seat. He had two slips of paper in his hand. Because he was President of the United States, Lincoln had been invited to attend. The committee in charge felt obligated to ask him to make a few remarks after the speaker of the day had delivered his oration.

The President's face was lined and care-worn. Two years of war had aged him. A news photographer busied himself getting his camera ready, poking his head under the black hood and out again. He was going to take the President's picture while he spoke. There was plenty of time. Lincoln spoke slowly and thoughtfully:

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 battlefield 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 this 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, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

The world did note and does still remember what he said. One of the reporters wrote in his paper:

The oration by Mr. Everett was smooth and cold. The few words of the President were from the heart to the heart. It was as simple — and earnest a word as was ever spoken.

Everett's two-hour oration is scarcely known, but Lincoln's five-minute speech has been memorized by millions of Americans. The photographer, taken by surprise, tossed off the black hood and stared blankly at the platform. The speech was finished and he had failed to get the President's picture.

## LINCOLN'S REELECTION AND THE END OF THE WAR

AFTER GETTYSBURG, the governments of both the United States of America and the Confederate States of America drafted more men into their armies. Yet, the war lagged in Virginia while decisive battles in the West were engaging many troops on both sides after the fall of Vicksburg. Early in March of 1864, with the Mississippi River opened to the Gulf of Mexico and Union soldiers moving eastward in the Tennessee Valley, Grant commanded the armies of the

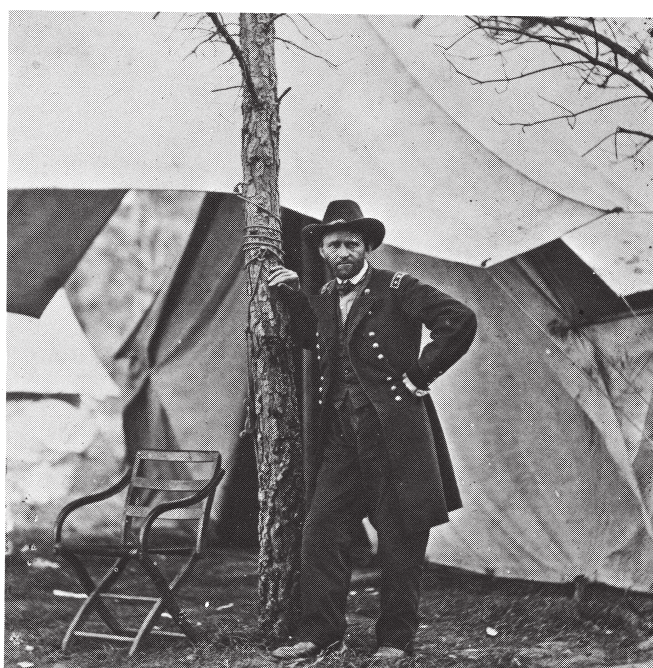


United States, with his headquarters in the field. That final field was Virginia and the final goal, Richmond.

The people of the North were shocked when Union casualties in thirty days numbered nearly 54,000 men in three battles – Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Cold Harbor. The long siege of Petersburg cost the Union over 24,000 men – killed, wounded, captured, or missing. While Grant was pounding at Richmond, General A.J. Early of the Confederacy and General Philip H. Sheridan of the Union were raiding the Shenandoah Valley, destroying crops, livestock, and property that might provide supplies for their rival armies.

According to the Constitution of the United States, an election occurs every four years, during war and peace, giving the citizens the opportunity to choose a President and members of Congress. In November of 1864, Lincoln was re-elected. On March 4, 1865, he was inaugurated to serve a second term as President of the United States. The day began with a violent storm of rain, wind, and hail, making the unpaved streets of Washington almost impassable with mud. The weather failed to hold back the crowd that gathered in the open park in front of the Capitol. Umbrellas gave scant protection to the wide skirts worn by the ladies. After a sudden shower silks and satins hung in limp folds over the bulging hoops and water dripped to the ground from the full, deep flounces. Men in rainsoaked suits and mud-spattered boots edged closer to the President's stand. The weather! Who cared? The crowd had come to hear Lincoln's second inaugural speech. What would he say to the secessionists?

About noon when the procession wheeled into Pennsylvania Avenue, the



*Library of Congress*

#### **GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT AT COLD HARBOR, VIRGINIA**

During the summer of 1864, Grant's goal was the capture of Richmond, the Confederate capital. The city was strongly defended by the main Confederate army under General Lee. At Cold Harbor, northeast of Richmond, Grant ordered his whole army to attack the Confederate works. Although the battle was decided in a short time, the Union army was defeated and suffered heavy losses.

clouds had scattered and the sun was shining. Closed umbrellas were used for canes by tired spectators. Although the crowd was as large as in 1861, it was not so jubilant. Even with bands playing, bells clanging, and guns firing, the second inauguration of Lincoln was a rather solemn affair. Four years of war cast its shadow upon the ceremonies. When the President began to speak, the people listened in tense silence. The closing lines of his address brought hope to the South and tears to the eyes of many in the throng. Lincoln said:

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 a lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

Perhaps, the President's kind words, "with malice toward none," encouraged General Lee to ask for terms of surrender a month later.

The two commanders met in a farmhouse at Appomattox Court House, near Richmond, Virginia. Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee shook hands. At first they talked briefly not of surrender but of their campaign in Mexico. Perhaps Grant recalled the time when he was only a lieutenant in charge of wagon trains and Lee was a captain, the engineer who had built the road through marshy land into Mexico City. Maybe he thought of the day when his loaded wagons rumbled over the lava-bed road and Lee reined his horse to ride with him, jogging along behind the mule-carts. Then the conversation shifted to terms of surrender. Grant wrote the terms as the two men talked. The orders

#### GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE ON "TRAVELLER"

*Valentine Museum*



were most generously written. Grant handed them to the Confederate general:

Appomattox Court House

April 9, 1865

General R.E. Lee, Commanding C.S.A.

– I propose to receive the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to wit:

Rolls of all the officers and men, to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer designated by me, the other to be retained by such officers as you may designate. Officers to give their individual parole not to take up arms against the Government of the United States – and each company or regimental commander sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery and public property to be paraded and stacked, and turned over to officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side arms of the officers nor their private horses nor baggage. This done each officer and man will be allowed to return to their homes not to be disturbed by the United States authority so long as they observe their parole, and the laws in force where they may reside.

Very Respectfully,

U.S. Grant, Lieut. General

The Confederate officers were delighted to learn that they were not to be paraded in Washington and humiliated. Grant added that cavalymen who furnished their own mounts should take them home "for the spring plowing." Twenty thousand rations of bread and meat were issued for the Confederate soldiers, who had been reduced to eating parched corn. Enough supplies arrived the next day to add sugar, coffee, and salt to these rations. After the surrender had been arranged, General Lee rode away on his iron-gray horse, "Traveller." Grant stood in the doorway and saluted in silence. As Lee passed through the Confederate lines, soldiers vied for the honor of marching by his side.

The next day, General Lee dispatched a farewell to his army, closing with these lines:

You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection. With an increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration of myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

In a few days the joy of the people changed to sorrow. On the evening of April 14, 1865 the President and Mrs. Lincoln attended a performance of the play, *Our American Cousin*, at Ford's Theater in Washington. Shortly after ten o'clock John W. Booth, an anarchist, slipped into their box unnoticed and fired the fatal shot. Booth jumped down to the stage, waved a dagger, and shouted the state motto of Virginia, "Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Thus be it always to tyrants). In the excitement he escaped through a back door, mounted his horse, and rode away into the night before the audience realized what he had done. Lincoln's assassination turned joy into grief. The southerners, too, mourned his loss.

Four years of war ended at Appomattox. From 1861 to 1865, approximately 4,000,000 men had carried arms in defense of their views of states rights under the Constitution of the United States. Can a state secede? The War Between the States answered that question by force of arms. Yet, a hundred years later, citizens in all parts of the country were still debating the meaning of states rights under the Constitution. A military victory does not always change the minds of men.

Slavery, a cause of disputes from the

beginning of the nation, was abolished forever by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution:

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime — shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Although the wounds of war heal slowly, people living in the North, South, East, and West began to feel that they belonged to one another. A new spirit of nationalism took root and began to grow.

## THE MONROE DOCTRINE IS TESTED

DURING THE FIRST fifty years of its independence, the republic of Mexico had not been able to maintain a stable government for any length of time. Ambitious leaders seeking political power kept the nation in turmoil. While revolutions followed revolutions and leaders rose and fell, taxes became a burden to the Mexican people. Their rulers borrowed money from European bankers in the name of the Mexican Government, although they had reason to suspect they might not be in office long enough to repay the loans.

In 1861, the year that the War Between the States began, Benito Juarez, President of Mexico, stopped payments on these debts for a time. The following year, Great Britain, Spain, and France joined hands and captured Vera Cruz to compel payment of money owed to the citizens of these three countries. Napoleon III, Emperor of France, wanted the three powers to occupy Mexico City in defiance of the Monroe Doctrine.

Great Britain and Spain withdrew. Napoleon III went ahead, alone. During the summer of 1863 French troops took possession of the capital, Mexico City, overthrew the republic, and established a monarchy.

Napoleon III persuaded Maximilian, younger brother of Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, to accept the throne of Mexico. This good natured archduke was deceived into believing that the Mexican people wanted him to rule. In 1864 Maximilian and his beautiful young wife arrived in Mexico. They were welcomed by Mexicans who were weary of revolutions and were willing to try a monarchy. However, the Mexican people resented a foreigner whose throne was upheld by foreign soldiers. Troops were organized under Porfirio Diaz and Benito Juarez to drive out the French.

When the War Between the States ended in 1865, the United States had an army of one million war veterans. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, was in a position to remind the French Emperor that the Monroe Doctrine was still part of

the nation's policy. Seward's reminder must have been rather firm. Napoleon III suddenly ordered the withdrawal of French troops from Mexico, declaring "I spontaneously decided upon the recall of our army." At the same time this message was dispatched to the French Minister in Washington:

The Emperor has decided that the French troops shall quit Mexico in three detachments. You will please inform the Secretary of State, (Seward) officially of this decision.

The withdrawal of the French troops was a diplomatic victory for Seward, but a death sentence for Maximilian. He was shot by Mexicans at Queretaro on July 19, 1867. His tragic end discouraged European princes from ignoring the Monroe Doctrine and seeking thrones in the Western Hemisphere.

#### MAP:

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*Atlas of American History* by Edgar B. Wesley