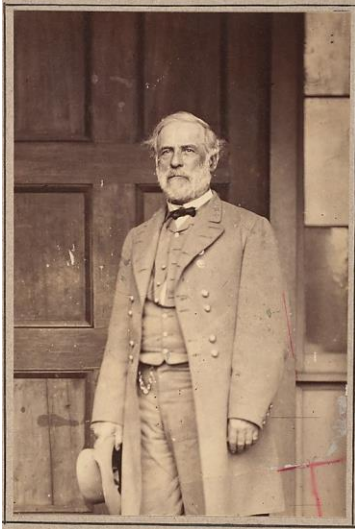


Robert E Lee

Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807 in Stratford Hall, Virginia. His father, Henry, was a hero during the American Revolutionary War where he earned the nickname "Light Horse Harry". His mother, Ann Carter, came from a wealthy family.



Lee entered the West Point Military Academy at the age of 18 and graduated in 1829 near the top of his class. After graduating, he joined the Army Corps of Engineers where he would help build forts and bridges for the army.

In 1831 Robert married Mary Custis. Mary came from a famous family and was the great-granddaughter of Martha Washington.

Lee's first encounter with combat and war took place during the Mexican-American War. He reported to General Winfield Scott who would later say that Lee was one of the best soldiers he had ever seen in battle. Lee was promoted to colonel for his efforts during the war and had made a name for himself as a military leader.

In 1859, John Brown led his raid at Harpers Ferry hoping to arm slaves and start a revolt. Lee was in charge of a group of marines sent in to stop the raid. Once Lee arrived, the marines quickly subdued John Brown and his men. When the Civil War began in 1861, Lee was offered command of the Union army by President Lincoln. Lee, however, was also loyal to his home state of Virginia. Although he didn't agree with slavery, Lee felt he could not fight against his family and neighbors in Virginia. He left the United States Army and became General of the Confederate Army of Virginia.

The Virginia army fought many of the key battles of the eastern front. Lee chose talented officers such as Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Jeb Stuart. Although the Confederate armies were constantly outnumbered by the Union armies, Lee and his men still managed to hold off the Union forces. Eventually, however, the overwhelming numbers of the Union forces had him surrounded. On April 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to General Ulysses S. Grant at the courthouse in Appomattox, Virginia. He received good terms for his soldiers, who were given food and allowed to return home.

Although Lee could have been tried and hanged as a traitor to the United States, he was forgiven by President Lincoln. Lee became president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. He worked there until he died from a stroke in 1870.

Ulysses S. Grant

Ulysses S. Grant is most known for being the lead general of the Union troops during the American Civil War. Grant's real name was Hiram Ulysses Grant, but it was entered incorrectly as Ulysses S. Grant when he went to West Point. Since he was embarrassed by his real initials (H.U.G), he didn't tell anyone and ended up going by Ulysses S. Grant for the rest of his life.



Grant grew up in Ohio the son of a tanner. He didn't want to be a tanner like his father and spent his time on the farm where he became an excellent horseman. His father suggested that he attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. At first Grant didn't like the idea as he had no interest in becoming a soldier, however, he realized this was his chance at a college education and eventually decided to go.

After graduating from West Point, Grant became an officer in the army. During the Mexican War (1846-1848) he served under General Zachary Taylor. Later he had various posts on the west coast. Grant was lonely for his wife and family, however, and took to drinking. He eventually left the army to return home and open a general store.

With the start of the Civil War, Grant reentered the military. He started out with the Illinois militia and soon moved up the ranks in the army to general. He became known as Unconditional Surrender (U.S.) Grant when he told the Confederate commanders "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender". He became a famous war hero and in 1864 President Abraham Lincoln made him General-in-Chief of the entire Union Army.

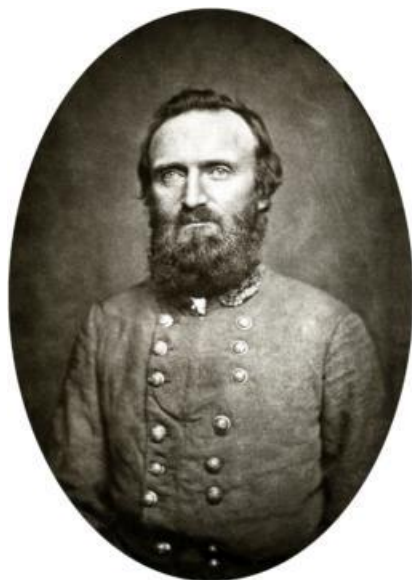
Grant then led the Union Army against Robert E. Lee in Virginia. They battled for over a year, with Grant eventually defeating Lee and the Confederate Army. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865. In an effort to restore the Union, Grant offered very generous terms of surrender allowing confederate troops to return home after surrendering their weapons.

Grant's popularity soared after the Civil War, and he easily won the presidential election in 1868. He served two terms as president and even ran for a third, which he didn't win.

Grant died of throat cancer in 1885, probably as a result of smoking several cigars a day for much of his life.

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

Thomas Jackson was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on January 21, 1824. He had a difficult childhood that was full of death. His father and sister both died from typhoid fever when he was two years old. A few years later his mother became ill and Jackson went to live with his uncle. Jackson grew up helping his uncle on the farm. He attended the local school when he could, but mostly taught himself by reading books he borrowed.



At the age of 17, Jackson got a job as the county constable (like a policeman). He was then able to gain an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Because of his lack of education, Jackson had to work extra hard to succeed at West Point. His hard work paid off when he graduated in 1846.

After West Point, Jackson joined the army where he fought in the Mexican-American War. Jackson had great success in the war and rose to the rank of major. He also met Robert E. Lee for the first time. In 1851, Jackson retired from the army and became a teacher at the Virginia Military Institute.

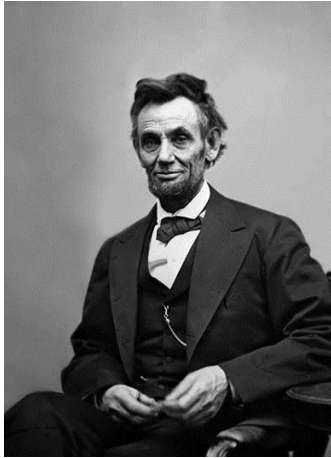
When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Jackson joined the Confederate Army. Jackson first gained fame as an army commander at the First Battle of Bull Run.

Jackson earned the name Stonewall from his stand during this battle. During the battle, another general noticed that Jackson and his troops were bravely holding their ground. He said "Look, there is Jackson standing like a stone wall." From that day forward he was known as Stonewall Jackson.

At the Battle of Chancellorsville, it was Jackson and his troops that attacked the flank of the Union Army forcing it to retreat. It was another victory for the Confederates. However, when returning from a scouting trip, Jackson was accidentally shot in the arm by his own men. At first, it seemed he would recover, but then things turned for the worse. He died a few days later on May 10, 1863. His final words were "Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees." Stonewall Jackson is remembered as a military genius. Some of his battle tactics are still studied today in military schools.

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln came from humble beginnings. He was born in a single-room log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. His father lost everything when they was young and they had to move to Perry County, Indiana where they struggled to get by. Abraham Lincoln had very little formal education, but had a strong interest in books and learning. Most of what he learned was self-educated and from books he borrowed.



As a young man, Lincoln worked a variety of jobs including shopkeeper, surveyor, and postmaster. For a time, he even split firewood with an axe for a living. He soon moved into politics and won a seat in the Illinois Legislature when he was 25.

Lincoln served on the Illinois State Legislature for several terms. During that time he studied the law and began to work as a lawyer. Later, Lincoln ran for the U.S. Senate, he did not win but he did gain national recognition for his arguments against slavery during the debates.

In 1860, Lincoln ran for President of the United States. He was a member of the fairly new Republican party which strongly opposed allowing any of the southern states to secede (leave the country). The republicans were also against slavery. They said they would allow for slavery to continue in the southern states, but that it would not be allowed to spread to new U.S. states or territories.

Lincoln won the 1860 election and was inaugurated as president in March of 1861. The southern states soon seceded and formed the Confederate States of America.

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter in South Carolina just a month after Lincoln took office. Lincoln was determined to maintain the "Union" of the states. He called for an army from the northern states to defeat the south. What followed was a bloody war that lasted four years and cost the lives of 600,000 Americans. Lincoln faced all sorts of opposition during the war, but managed to hold the country together.

The Civil War finally ended on April 9, 1865 when General Robert E. Lee surrendered at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Lincoln wanted the country to heal, forgive, and rebuild. He wanted to be generous to the southern states in helping them during the reconstruction. Unfortunately, he would not live to see the country rebuild.

President Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth while attending a play at the Ford Theatre in Washington D.C. He died the next day on April 15, 1865.

Jefferson Finis Davis

Jefferson Davis was born in a log cabin on June 3, 1808 in Kentucky. He was his parents' tenth child. When he was two years old his family moved to Mississippi. Davis grew up in Mississippi where his father owned a small farm. After attending law school, Davis' brother helped him to get accepted into the West Point Military Academy.



In 1824, Davis graduated from West Point and began his military career. In 1835 he fell in love and married Sarah Knox Taylor, the daughter of his commanding officer, and future president, Zachary Taylor.

In 1845, he was elected to the US House of Representatives. He became well known for his powerful speeches and strong beliefs in states' rights.

When the Mexican-American War broke out in 1846, Davis resigned his seat in Congress to return to the military. He once again served under General Zachary Taylor. Davis became famous for his leadership skills in battle during the war.

In 1847 Davis was appointed to fill an open Senate seat by the governor of Mississippi. He served on the US Senate until 1851 and then became the US Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce in 1853.

On January 9, 1861 the state of Mississippi seceded from the Union. Davis resigned from his position as US Senator and returned to his home in Mississippi. On February 9, 1861 the Confederate Constitutional Convention in Montgomery, Alabama voted to make Davis the President of the Confederate States. Davis took the job as he considered it his duty even though he was personally against secession and would have rather served as a general in the army.

Davis appointed many of his fellow cadets from West Point to lead the Confederate armies including Robert E. Lee to lead the Army of Virginia. Although the South saw some success, eventually the larger population and wealth of the Union began to win out.

Davis attempted to gather forces and fight on after Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. However, he found little support. The South was done fighting. Davis was captured on May 10, 1865 in Georgia. He went to prison for two years at Fort Monroe in Virginia.

William Tecumseh Sherman

William Tecumseh Sherman was born on January 11 1820, in Lancaster, Ohio. His father, a successful Ohio lawyer, named him after the famous Shawnee leader Tecumseh. William's



father died in 1829, and he was left to the care of his mother (who had 10 other children) and family friends. At the age of 16, William received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Like many future Civil War generals, he saw action in the Seminole Wars. He did not see military action in the Mexican War, but rather, performed administrative duties in the maintenance of the war.

In 1850, Sherman was promoted to Captain and married Eleanor Boyle ("Ellen") Ewing. Together, they would have eight children. In 1861, just before the start of the Civil War, Sherman returned North. He strongly opposed the secession of the southern states and warned of the horrors the South would experience during a war with the North. He correctly predicted

that the Southern states couldn't possibly hope to match the industrial and manufacturing powers of the North, and that they would be cut off from trade with Europe. Sherman accepted a commission as a colonel in the 13th U.S. Infantry regiment, effective May 14, 1861. He was quickly promoted to brigadier general and was sent to serve in Kentucky and Tennessee.

In 1861, he was put on administrative leave and returned to Ohio. Many believed he had experienced a nervous breakdown. Nevertheless, Sherman recovered and returned for military duty. In 1862, he was assigned to serve under Ulysses S. Grant in west Tennessee. Grant gave Sherman permission to invade Georgia. In 1864, Sherman led three separate armies numbering nearly 100,000 soldiers into the state under a "scorched earth" policy. In short, the policy entailed destroying the state. On September 2, 1864, Sherman occupied the city of Atlanta. After burning the Georgia capital city to the ground, Sherman's army cut a devastating swath through the heart of Georgia, living off the land, and destroying various towns on the way to Savannah. The purpose of this "total war" was to crush the morale of what was left of the southern resistance. In what came to be known as "Sherman's March to the Sea," Savannah was captured on December 22, 1864. In fact, Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln offering it as a Christmas present. Sherman became a national hero for this. In 1869, four years after Civil War, president Ulysses S. Grant named Sherman Commander of the United States Army

In 1875, he became the first Civil War General to publish his memoirs. Sherman retired from military service in 1883 and lived out the rest of his life in New York City, enjoying theater and art. He died in New York City in 1891. He is buried in St. Louis, Missouri.