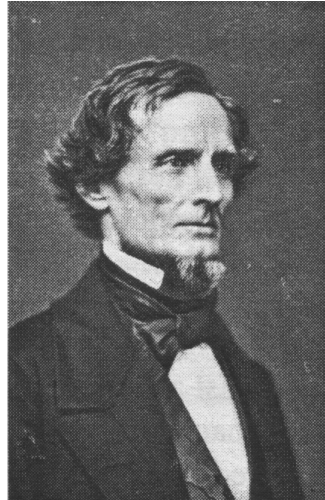


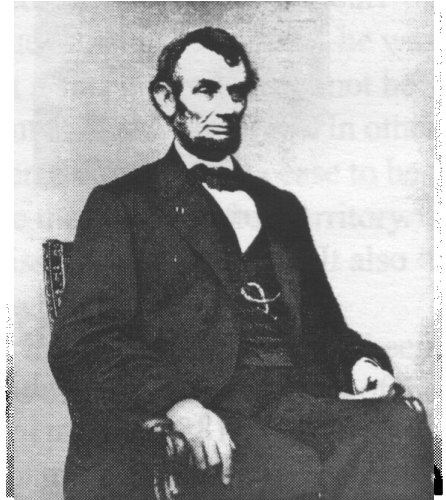
# SECESSION AND CIVIL WAR

## THE REPUBLICANS AND THE ELECTION OF 1860

Northern Democrats opposed to slavery, Whigs, and Free Soilers formed a new political party in 1854. (Free Soilers opposed expanding slavery into new territories.) It became known as the **Republican Party**. The Republicans did not call for the immediate abolition of slavery, but they did oppose expanding slavery into new US territories. Within a few years, **Abraham Lincoln** emerged as one of the party's greatest political figures. After



Jefferson Davis

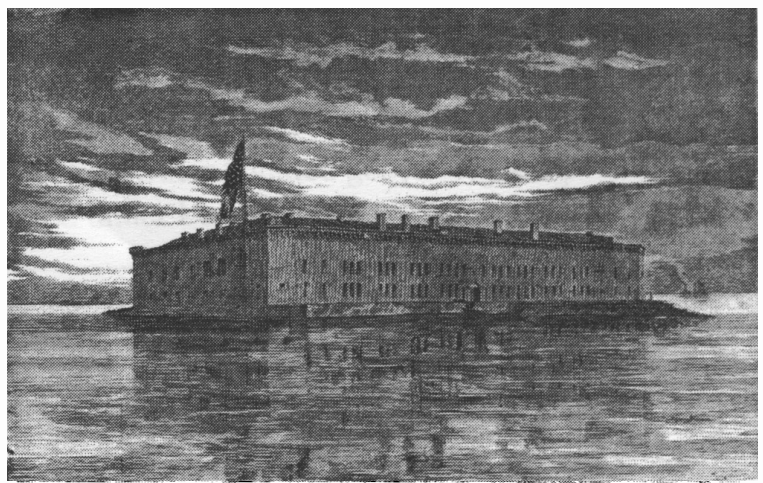


Abraham Lincoln

losing a senate race in 1858, Lincoln became the Republican's candidate for president in 1860. The South felt threatened by Lincoln's candidacy because they feared Lincoln would seek to end slavery. They nominated Vice President John Breckinridge. Northern Democrats favored popular sovereignty and nominated Stephen Douglas. When Lincoln won the election, South Carolina responded by seceding from the Union on December 20, 1860. Within two months, six other states had seceded as well: Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. In February 1861, southern delegates from the seceded states met in Montgomery, Alabama, where they drafted their own constitution and elected **Jefferson Davis** to serve as president of the new **Confederate States of America**.

## FORT SUMTER

President Abraham Lincoln felt he could not let the South secede. However, he also knew that northern citizens did not want war. Many were sick of the slavery debate. They wanted Lincoln to let the South leave the Union and take their disgusting slavery with them. Others wanted to preserve the Union but favored reaching a peaceful solution. Only a few favored force. Even if he wanted to, Lincoln did not have enough support to launch any military action against the Confederacy. If there was going to be a war, the South would have to start it.



Fort Sumter, South Carolina

In April, 1861, Union troops located at **Fort Sumter**, South Carolina, ran low on supplies. Lincoln sent word to the governor of South Carolina that he was sending ships with food for the soldiers but no weapons. South Carolina, however, decided not to allow Union troops to remain any longer. On April 12, Confederate forces opened fire. The South's attack forced the Union troops to leave the fort, but it also gave Lincoln the support he needed for war. Many northerners who originally opposed war now felt the Union had been attacked. They were ready to support their president if he decided military action was necessary. President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers. Border states (slave states in the Upper South) were forced to decide whether to support the Union or the Confederacy. Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, and the northwest region of Virginia remained with the Union. North Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee, and the rest of Virginia joined the Confederacy. The Confederates then moved their capital from Montgomery, Alabama, to Richmond, Virginia. The **Civil War** had begun.

## **THE CIVIL WAR**

### **WAR TIME ADVANTAGES**

Both sides enjoyed advantages and had to overcome weaknesses during the Civil War. Ultimately, the Union's strengths proved to be too great for the Confederacy.

<b>Northern Advantages</b>
The North had more railway lines. They could move troops and supplies faster, to more locations, and in greater numbers.
The Union also had more factories for producing guns, ammunition, uniforms, and so on. In addition, it already had an established government and a standing military force. It did not have to form a government or raise an army.
The Union states were home to two-thirds of the nation's population. Not only did this mean that the Union could send more soldiers into battle, it also supplied the needed labor force to keep the northern economy and production of war supplies going.

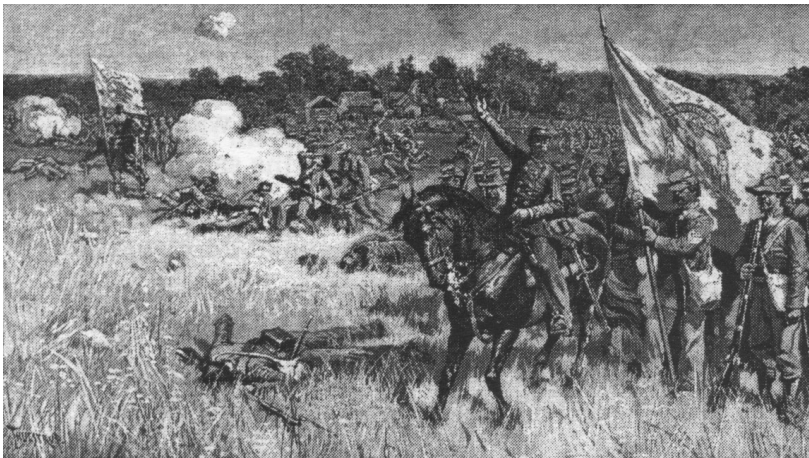
## Southern Advantages

The South did enjoy some advantages, however. For one, the South began the war with better military commanders. General Robert E. Lee was one of the most respected military commanders in history. (He was the same commander who captured John Brown at Harper's Ferry.) Lee was so gifted that President Lincoln actually offered him field command of the Union army at the beginning of the war. Lee turned down the command because he felt loyal to his home state of Virginia. He eventually commanded the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Other talented generals, such as Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, served under Lee in the Confederate army.

Although the South had fewer men, it did not need as many because it intended to fight a defensive war designed to wear down its enemy's will to fight. Much like the colonies during the American Revolution, the Confederacy believed it did not need to win the war; it only needed to resist long enough for the Union to give up.

The South also had greater motivation. Southerners saw themselves as fighting for their homeland and the right to rule themselves. They identified themselves with the founders of the United States who had fought for the same principles against the British. They did not view the conflict as a civil war. Instead, they saw it as a second war for independence.

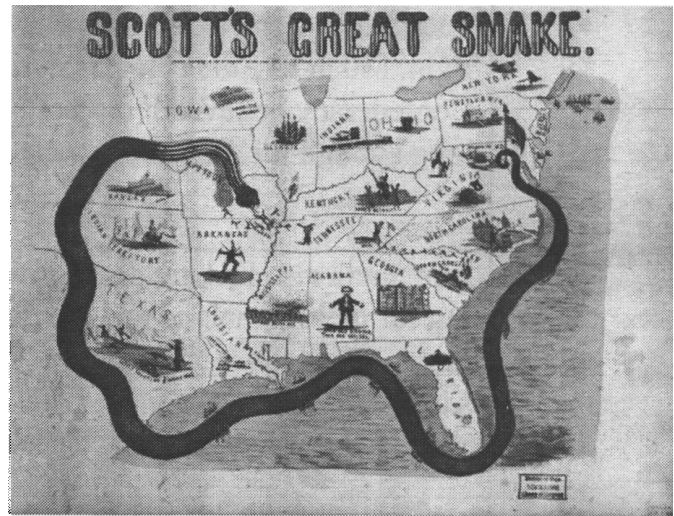
## FIRST BULL RUN AND THE ANACONDA PLAN



**Bull Run**

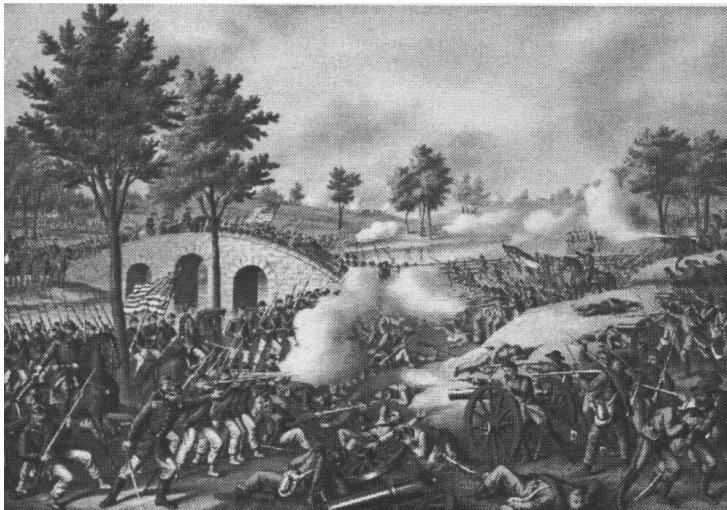
**The First Battle of Bull Run** (also known as First Manassas because Manassas was the nearest town) was the first confrontation between the two armies. Despite northern advantages, the battle turned out to be a humiliating defeat for the Union. Most northerners expected a short war. After Bull Run, however, it became clear the fighting would go on longer than expected.

Disappointed by his army's defeat, Lincoln adopted General Winfield Scott's **Anaconda Plan**. An anaconda is a large snake that kills its prey by wrapping around it and squeezing it to death. In the same way, Lincoln wanted to cut off Confederate supply lines. The plan would restrict southern trade and communications by seizing control of the Mississippi River. It would also cut Confederate territory in half and put in place coastal blockades (use of naval power to keep ships from entering or leaving enemy ports).



**Union Blockade**

## **ANTIETAM**



**The Battle of Antietam**

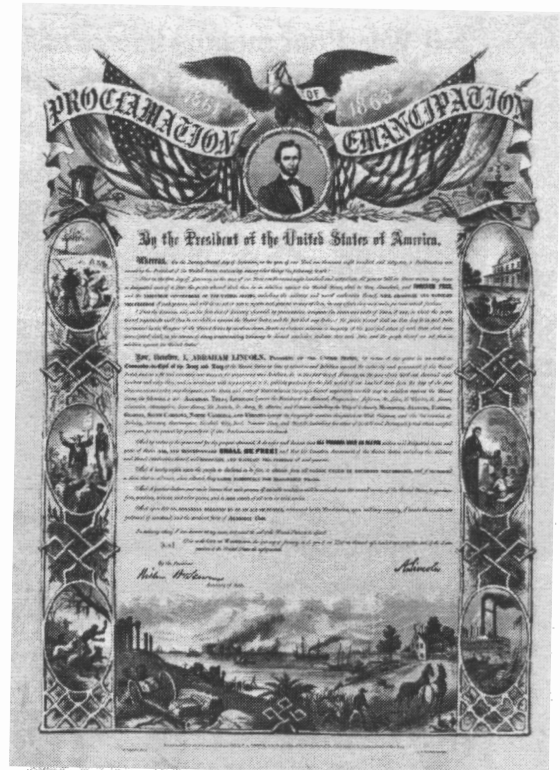
In 1862, Robert E. Lee took command of the Army of Northern Virginia. One of his first major victories came at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas). The battle ended Union hopes of invading Richmond and gave Lee confidence to invade the North.

Lee and his generals tried to maintain secrecy as they planned their invasion. They succeeded until a copy of Lee's orders were found wrapped around some cigars at an abandoned Confederate camp. Now aware of Lee's plans, George McClellan (the Union

general) made sure Lee met a prepared Union force at Antietam Creek, Maryland. The battle of **Antietam** proved to be the bloodiest single day of the war. It halted the Confederate army and forced Lee to retreat back into Virginia.

## THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

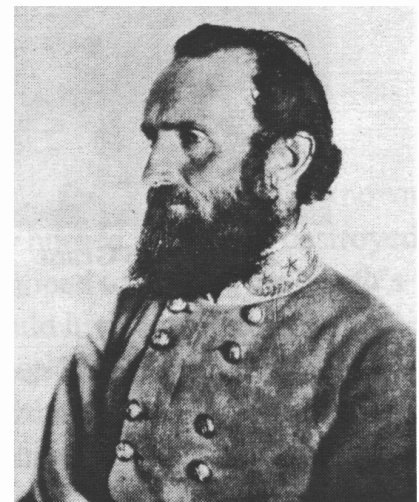
On January 1, 1863, following a much-needed Union victory at Antietam, President Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**. This proclamation freed the slaves in the Confederate States. However, it did nothing to end slavery in slave states loyal to the Union. Lincoln still needed the support of these states and could not risk offending them by forcing them to give up slavery. Still, with this executive order, Lincoln hoped to give the war a moral focus beyond just saving the Union. He also hoped to undermine the South's reliance on slave labor and ensure the support of England and France—both of which had already abolished slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation also encouraged free African Americans to serve in the Union army. Although originally not allowed to enlist, early Union defeats led Congress to authorize accepting African Americans into the army in 1862. On warships, whites and blacks served side by side. In the army, however, African Americans served in all-black regiments under the command of white officers. Seeing their battle as one to free their own people from slavery, African Americans served notably during the war.



Emancipation Proclamation

## CHANCELLORSVILLE

The battle of **Chancellorsville** is often called “Lee’s perfect battle.” Thanks to the efforts of his most gifted general, **Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson**, Lee’s army defeated more than 70,000 Union troops with only 40,000 Confederate soldiers. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, Jackson was accidentally shot by his own men while scouting the enemy’s position at night. His left arm had to be amputated. When Lee heard the news, he responded with his famous quote: “Jackson has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right.” Although his injuries were not life threatening, Jackson died after contracting pneumonia during his recovery. As a result, Robert E. Lee was without his most talented and reliable commander for the rest of the war.



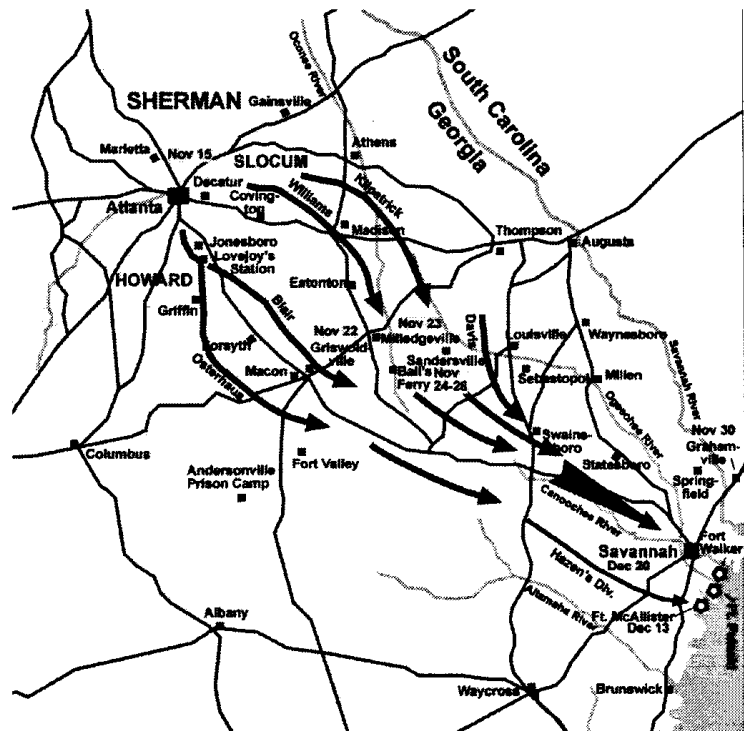
Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson

## SHERMAN'S ATLANTA CAMPAIGN AND MARCH TO THE SEA

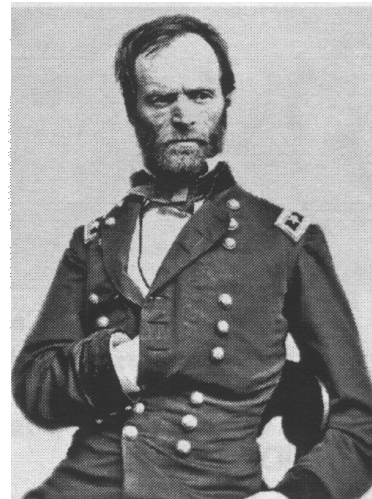
In 1864, Lincoln appointed Grant to be overall commander of the entire Union army. Grant put his most trusted general, **William T. Sherman**, in charge of his western forces. In May, Sherman began an invasion of Georgia. He wanted to reach Atlanta because of its importance as a railway hub. If Sherman took Atlanta, he could hurt the South by disrupting its major rail lines. As Sherman advanced south, General Joseph Johnston's Confederate forces tried to delay his march. Finally, however, Sherman reached Atlanta.

Jefferson Davis was furious with Johnston for letting Sherman reach Atlanta. He replaced Johnston with General John Bell Hood. Hood, however could do no better. His army evacuated Atlanta on September 1, 1864. Sherman's successful **Atlanta Campaign** not only placed the city under Union control, it also increased support for President Lincoln in the North. Before Atlanta, many northerners wanted to replace Lincoln with a president who would negotiate with the South and end the war. After Sherman's success, northerners believed the war could be won and re-elected Lincoln.

After taking Atlanta, Sherman ordered much of the city burned. He then began a march from Atlanta to Savannah that became known as his **March to the Sea**. On its way to the coast, Sherman's army burned buildings, destroyed rail lines, set fire to factories, and demolished bridges. Sherman hoped to cripple the South's ability to make and ship supplies. Without supplies, the South would have to surrender. People in Savannah were so terrified by news of the destruction that, when Sherman finally reached the city, they surrendered without a fight. Sherman then turned north into the Carolinas. All the while, General Joseph Johnston continued trying to resist Sherman as best he could.



Sherman's March to the Sea



William T Sherman

## GETTYSBURG

Fought in Pennsylvania, the battle of **Gettysburg** was a key turning point in the war. Without Jackson, Lee's forces proved less aggressive than usual and failed to win valuable high ground early in the battle. Union forces under the command of General George Meade defeated Lee's army and ended any hope the South had of successfully invading the North. With more than 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, or missing, Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the entire Civil War. Four months later, President Lincoln gave his famed Gettysburg Address at a ceremony on the sight of the battlefield. Although a short speech, it stated powerfully Lincoln's desire to see the Union survive and the nation reunited.

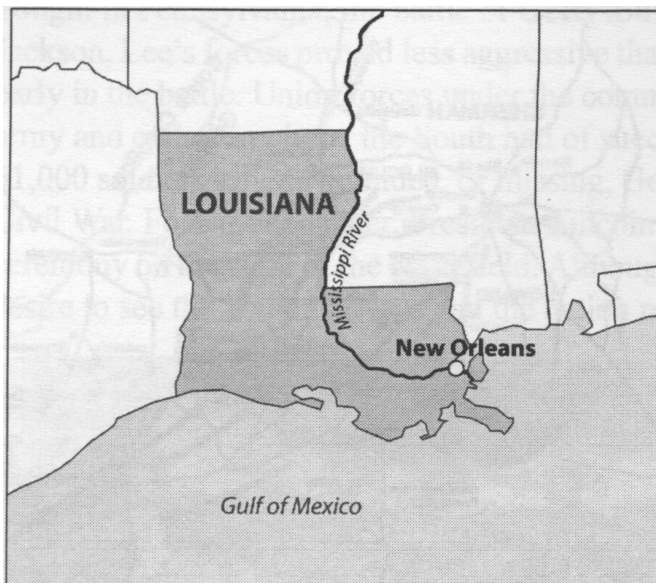
## VICKSBURG



Ulysses S Grant

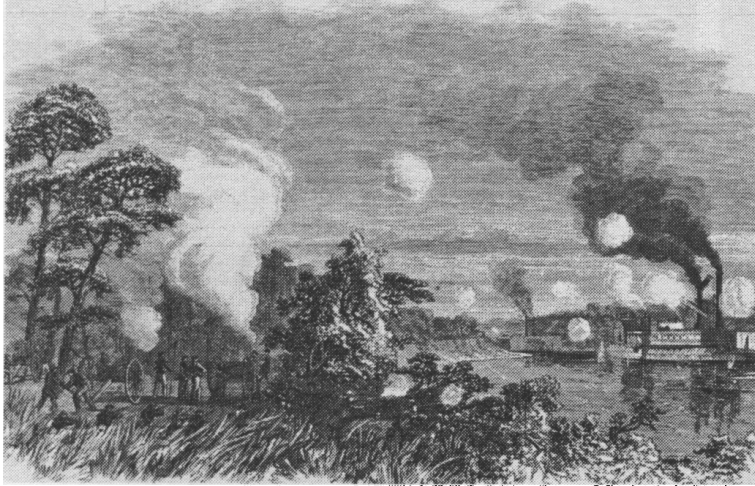
In the spring of 1863, the town of Vicksburg, Mississippi, remained the last Confederate obstacle to total Union control of the Mississippi River. Ignoring advice to withdraw, General **Ulysses S. Grant** laid siege to Vicksburg for almost two months. (In a siege, an army surrounds a city, cutting off all supplies. Eventually, inhabitants of the city have to surrender or starve.) By the time the town finally surrendered on July 4, residents were so hungry that they had eaten horses, mules, dogs, and even rats.

## LOUISIANA AND THE CIVIL WAR



New Orleans on the Mississippi River

Many battles took place in Louisiana during the Civil War. The earliest and most important was over **New Orleans** in 1862. New Orleans was the South's major port. It provided the interiors of both the Confederacy and the Union with access to the Gulf of Mexico. It also provided the South with much of its limited industrial production and served as a major finance center. The Confederates were determined to defend New Orleans. But their enemy had more troops, a stronger navy, and better resources. Union attacks forced the Confederates to surrender New Orleans in late April.



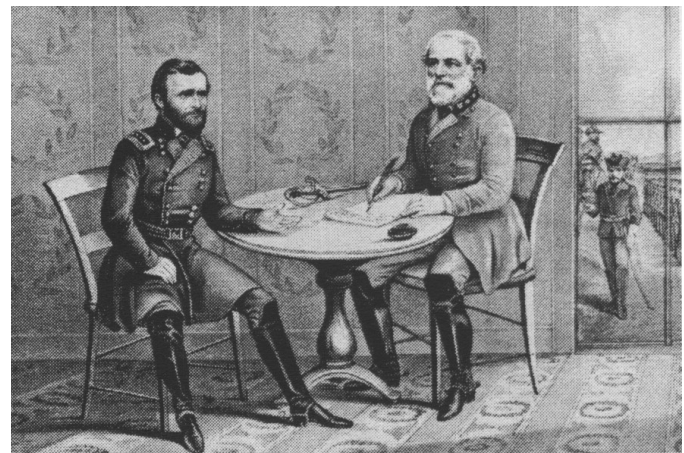
**The Red River Campaign**

Another major event was the **Red River Campaign**. Union forces launched the campaign in 1864 in order to destroy the Confederate army in northern Louisiana. The Union wanted to capture Shreveport and cut off neighboring Texas from the rest of the Confederacy. Texas supplied the South with needed weapons and supplies. Isolating Texas would damage the South's ability to fight. Union General Nathaniel P. Banks planned poorly, however, and the campaign failed to

accomplish its goals. It may have actually lengthened the war by wasting resources and men on a failed military effort.

## **UNION VICTORY**

In March 1864, President Lincoln put Ulysses S. Grant in command of the Union army. Grant, knowing he had far more men than Lee, began a campaign designed to crush the Confederate army in a series of head-to-head confrontations. Pushing south, Grant engaged Lee in a number of bloody battles. In less than two months, Grant's army suffered roughly 65,000 casualties. Still, the Union's overwhelming numbers meant that the Confederates were the ones on the retreat.



**Surrender at Appomattox**

Finally, when the Confederate army found itself surrounded in Virginia, General Lee elected to surrender rather than see more lives lost. On April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at **Appomattox Courthouse**. Although some fighting continued afterwards, this effectively ended the war. Two weeks later, the largest and last major surrender of the war took place when General Joseph Johnston surrendered to General William T. Sherman at a farm house in Durham, North Carolina, known as the Bennett Place. The last of Louisiana's troops surrendered just over a month later.