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The Divided Union
by Joe Escobar - Saturday, February 18, 2017, 1:46 PM

This thread is for discussions on the The Divided Union topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

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Context vs Drama

by Stanley Cates - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 12:48 PM

The very first thing that struck me about the Divided Union documentary as different from Burns' documentary was its seemingly heavier use of historian interviews, I see this as a strength. While the Divided Union documentary is undoubtedly a little dated it feels more genuine as a factual documentary rather than an attempt at cinematography; for example, the park ranger talking at the wilderness likely could have used a few lessons on showmanship, but what he had to say seems to be more factually relevant; he was straightforward and to the point describing some of the events that went on at the battle field and had an appropriate backdrop to show what the soldiers had to deal with, as he said: "It's clear why the soldiers referred to this engagement in the spring of 1864 as bushwhacking on a grand scale", this gives it just enough perspective to add context without an overpowering display of shock and awe, much unlike Burns' opening to the battle of the wilderness which saw fit to describe the scene "Where winter rains had washed open the shallow graves" followed by an account of this from Union soldier Frank Wilkeson; great and dramatic cinematography but not so much for historical relevance. However, we can easily turn the tables and recognize that there is strength to be found in drama that keeps the audience engaged, and weakness to be found in the dry and to the point styles that may bore an audience to the point they stop paying much attention.

It's difficult to compare documentary films, no matter how well done, to a textbook; I find it much like comparing a cleaver to a scalpel. The book's strength, or that of any book for that matter, is always going to rely most heavily on its attention to detail that a film just isn't inclined to include; could you imagine a film that simply used McPherson's book as a script? Talk about tedious viewing. Books however offer another strength that I find the most beneficial, while reading a book I may be inclined to stop and consider a point that I've just read before continuing, I may even reread a paragraph or two to really let it sink in. Not so in a documentary, of course I could always rewind and watch certain sections over again but films often have a flow to them that makes a person disinclined to do this. Naturally though textbooks are not without their weaknesses. Perhaps the most glaring weakness of a textbook is that usually people have to be compelled to read them, often by including the descriptor: "required course material". If you've never attempted to read a textbook for pleasure, try it sometime and I think you'll be amazed at how much more difficult it is to get through without someone giving you deadlines for certain sections.

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Re: Context vs Drama

by Randi Carlton - Thursday, February 23, 2017, 2:24 PM

It did seem pretty heavy on the historian reviews, but this struck me as a way in which it could end up a little less factual; it's more difficult to fact check when you're just speaking freely on a subject as someone would be in an interview. Of course, I trust that these individuals know more than I ever will, but you can tell by the way that some of them are talking that they are generalizing things such as distance or numbers and sort of paraphrase quotes because they are not reading directly from a book or writing a scripted, double checked response. The narrative in the Civil War documentary is like the glue that holds all the pieces together because it is obviously a written and researched script that cites numbers and exact quotes, rather than just speaking freely (aside from the interviews with Shelby Foote and Barbara Fields).

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Re: Context vs Drama

by Stanley Cates - Thursday, February 23, 2017, 6:13 PM

That's certainly an interesting perspective, and definitely good argumentation for why people shouldn't rely solely on documentaries and interviews for information. However, I think I take a slight issue with your term "speaking freely". I recognize that these people are not reading from a script (except maybe that park ranger), but I think at the very least it is more appropriate to refer to it as a non-formal lecture from a trained professional. After all, isn't your doctor "speaking freely" when he's describing medical issues with you? Do your college professors always read from a script in class? (I should hope not at that would be overwhelmingly boring) I'm unconvinced that the generalizing that you mentioned is actually a significant hindrance to the films effectiveness. Is the specific distance between Washington and Richmond actually significant when talking about how to proximity of the two capitols effected the war? Or is it more important to recognize the concept that the two capitols were abnormally close to one another and that this presents a fairly unique wartime situation for both belligerent groups? Of course when someone sets out to write a book they're naturally going to take the time to be precise and comprehensive as I've gathered it is your implicit argument that things ought to be, but the problem I see with applying this to the Civil War series is that the script in question was not written by a trained historian; our textbook on the other hand, was.

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Battle Cry - Hospitals

by Jordan Okoniewski - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 8:27 PM

Its good to get a variety of sources when learning about any subject. The Civil War is no exception to that. Between Battle Cry of Freedom, Burns' The Civil War, and The Divided Union, you get a nice spread of content.

I usually get the most actual information from The Battle Cry of Freedom, and it's probably the most effective of these resources at conveying the true horrors of war. For instance, in the section on army hospitals they mention "corpses swollen to twice their original size, some of them actually burst asunder with the pressure of foul gasses... about the building you could see Hogs belonging to the Farm eating (amputated) arms and other portions of the body." You don't get that full depiction in Burns' The Civil War to The Divided Nation, and you have to wonder if part of that is what the censors will allow on TV.

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Re: Battle Cry - Hospitals

by Stanley Cates - Friday, February 24, 2017, 8:22 PM

I don't know about the censors on TV thing. Some of the accounts in Burns' Civil War series seem pretty gruesome to me. For instance, in episode two it describes the scene after the first day of Shiloh it describes "EVERYWHERE, WOUNDED MEN LAY IN AGONY.NEITHER ARMY HAD YET DEVISED A SYSTEM FOR GATHERING OR CARING FOR THEM ON THE FIELD.SCORES OF WOUNDED COLLAPSED AND DIED DRINKING FROM A MUD HOLE NEAR THE PEACH ORCHARD, STAINING THE WATER RED. IT BEGAN TO RAIN, AND FLASHES OF LIGHTNING SHOWED HOGS FEEDING ON THE UNGATHERED DEAD." Or Shelby Foote's description in episode six of men using the mangled corpse of an artillery casualty to intimidate and taunt incoming green troops. Those sorts of things to me are rather horrifying indeed.

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Re: Battle Cry - Hospitals (but really the Wilderness)

by Jordan Okoniewski - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 8:01 PM

Touche. I suppose I just get more of a mental image of some of those things in the book, whereas with Burns' my mental picture is often dominated by the literal picture you are seeing on the screen. And don't get me wrong, those are pretty gripping as well. However with old photos I often get a sense of the tragedy, but not the gore. HOWEVER - I do think that Burns did a better job than Battle Cry at describing the abject horror of the Battle of the Wilderness.

In fact, I think in the Battle of the Wilderness we really see what Burns excels at. We talk about his showmanship and his cinematography at times as though they are distractions from the facts, but I think it's a duty of anyone telling the

story of war to try to convey how hellish it is. (And honestly, I think that's an impossible task; you can't convey it to someone who hasn't lived it, but I digress...) Burns tells us the story of the chaos, the slaughter, the officers lost in the smoke, the remains of years dead corpses being exposed in the mud, the injured soldiers being burnt alive, and the hospitals sawing peoples limbs off around the clock and it's absolutely horrifying. I am so grateful to be living the life that I am right now and not fighting in the Overland Campaign. And I feel like Battle cry could have gone into this more, as opposed to just describing the battle like any other and adding the line "exploding shells set the underbrush on fire to threaten wounded men with fiery death."

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Details

by Kamron Bratlie - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 10:20 PM

Naturally, the text will have greater detail when explaining the events of the Civil War, which is why it's the strongest out of the choices. The amount of detail in either documentary falls short of what the book can provide. However, reading alone does not due some material justice. Having Frank Vandiver in *The Divided Union* clip talk about the significant losses at Cold Harbor helps the significance of that battle sink in, more than the book can. This is where the Ken Burns documentary falls short in my eyes. Having Shelby Foote to give context and voice to some of the documentary is great, but the lack of other historians seems like a missed opportunity.

The lack of battlefield reenactments in the Ken Burns documentary must have been a sigh of relief to the critics of *The Divided Union*. John J. O'Connor even mentioned they were "inevitable" in these types of documentaries.

Personally, the documentaries should be saved until after the chapters in the book are read. This allows one to fully understand the material, then get the succinct version from the film. In this order, they work well together. Watching the episode or the clips first might work for some, but there is a reason most classes have reading assigned **before** the class session.

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Re: Details

by Stanley Cates - Friday, February 24, 2017, 8:34 PM

I'm glad I'm not the only one that caught the subtle disdain toward the reenactments in the article. I too was actually slightly glad to learn the Burns did not use reenactments. In my experience reenactments tend to be disingenuous at

best and romanticize the past way too much for comfort. You see reenactors cooking big meals around fires and wearing nice clean uniforms all while clean shaven; it all just feels so tacky and fake.

Would you liken the historians in the documentaries as having a similar, or stronger/weaker, effect as an actual live lecture? As far as your order of reading and viewing I personally find it most helpful to watch the episode, then do the reading, and then watch the episode again.

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Re: Details

by Kamron Bratlie - Saturday, February 25, 2017, 11:22 PM

I agree with you on the use of reenactments. They really do feel romanticized in a way that doesn't necessarily contribute much to the way it actually happened.

To answer your question, I believe having the personal touch of a live action person speaking in context has great value to the documentaries. In both examples of the documentaries, the "talking heads" make some of the material relatable to the everyday person. In episode 6, Shelby Foote talks about General Grant crying after the battle of The Wilderness. I don't think a simple narration of that could give justice to how Grant felt, whereas the more conversational tone of Mr. Foote puts weight into the words.

As far as the order of events in which to consume the material, I do understand that everyone works in different ways and can respect more than one way to do something.

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Re: Details

by Stanley Cates - Saturday, February 25, 2017, 11:52 PM

I appreciate your evaluation of the historians in the documentaries but what I was getting at is whether you thought they, the documentaries, are of equal, greater, or lesser, effectiveness as sitting through an actual lecture. Personally I just don't think that a documentary, or an online class for that

matter, can really compare to the interactivity and subjective experience of taking a traditional lecture course. I was just curious about what some other people thought. Maybe I'm just old school.

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Re: Details

by Jordan Okoniewski - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 8:19 PM

The fact that Burns doesn't use re-enactors at all definitely seems deliberate. I'd also agree that they seem kind of tacky and frankly pretty misleading. When you compare the appearance of re-enactors in their nice uniforms to pictures of starving Confederate soldiers, or Burns' account of soldiers stripping their fallen compatriots for their much needed clothing you get almost a completely different telling of the war.

Also, it needs to be said - Burns' talking heads are second to none. Shelby Foote is like the Jackson to Burns' Lee - he owes him so much. Foote's story telling ability, knowledge of detail, hypnotizing voice, and passion for his subject are incredible. I was legitimately sad when I looked him up a few weeks ago and learned he passed away in 2005. You just feel like he loves and finds hilarious the personalities of the Southern generals, and in turn gives us a sense of their personalities. For a documentary that refuses to use human re-enactors, I think in the end we get more humanization. And I feel like that's one of the primary objectives when covering a course of events that happened 150 years ago.

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Re: Details

by Jordan Okoniewski - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 8:33 PM

I also just want to take this opportunity to bring up Ed Bearss. Burns found another gem with this guy. At first I thought he was pretty comical, but then realized how effective his really weird speech patterns were at conveying the drama of The Wilderness. Upon looking him up I discovered that he is an American hero who survived another one of our nation's most hellish battles - he was a marine who fought in Guadalcanal and was torn up by Japanese machine gun fire in New Britain during the Battle for Suicide Creek. He spent over two years in the hospital recovering, and was honorably discharged as a corporal. I gotta tip my hat.

But I do still think he is a hilariously dramatic speaker.

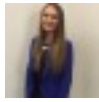
**Divided Union: kind of a clunky mess with no pathos**

by Randi Carlton - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 10:44 PM

The narrative in Divided Union seems disjointed; as the article states, the mixture of formats is more confusing than anything. Obviously, Ken Burns uses this same sort of format of showing pictures with voice overs and then interviewing historians, but the transitions are spaced apart and well executed, not piled one after the other like the Divided Union film seems to be. Also, from the 12 minute segment there seems to be a lot of broad, vague remarks like "this was the first engagement of a long series of battles," and "Grant took a licking from Robert E Lee," rather than the more specific numbers and beginning and end dates and number of dead that Ken Burns Civil War is constantly providing and reminding you of (which, arguably, is also why it has some mistakes... compiling that much information all in one spot is bound to produce some rounded off or misquoted facts, but it also has a much more cohesive narrative that is easy to follow overall). In Ken Burns' Civil War, the differences between Grant and Lee's personalities are explored, little snippets that give an idea as to their likes and dislikes, their morals, their quirks. Divided Union seems to only talk about their styles as generals and their interactions with and expectations of each other, their eagerness to strike at each other, and their ultimate decisions in battle. It makes the approach to the subject mechanical, methodical, and generally uninteresting. Civil War does a better job of hooking your interest and giving an idea as to the people behind the names and the actions; hearing that Grant was not a blowhard or a showoff, an unglamorous person who empathized with animals makes you want to learn about him, and maybe gives the viewer the opportunity to not just learn about what he did, but maybe even understand his actions and decisions and where they came from. With this information, without even being prompted to, you feel some emotion when it's mentioned that Lee met a young Grant in the Mexican War; of course there were many people who fought against people that they had once fought along side of or had at least met or known at some point, but when you have two figures who seem bigger than life finally being humanized and able to be empathized with and then learning that they had once known in each other in a previous war, like a previous life, it feels heavy with meaning. On the other side of the spectrum from this, there is Battle Cry of Freedom which gives such exact numbers for everything, backs everything up with quotes and citations, and clearly outlines the political and larger overall impacts of ever decision as it is made. We are given exact dates of attacks and the distance from the nearest major city and a quote from Grant's view of it. Details and reactions and opinions are firmly pinned down; but it is easy to see the appeal in the approach of the Civil War series still as we progress through the series and our other learning tools. Learning the humanity and interest behind it all is really the most captivating part. Though of course, the perfectly laid out, dense facts in Battle Cry of Freedom are also invaluable, so using these two

sources together really do compliment each other; my little exposure to Divided Union does not inspire confidence though, I really do not see very much value in the series from what I've seen.

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Re: Divided Union: kind of a clunky mess with no pathos

by Bailey Tillotson - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 11:48 PM

I would agree, I felt that the information was very abrupt and unorganized. The benefit of Burns's episode is that organization and smooth/clear transitions that Divided Union did not provide. The information itself is helpful and important, but I found myself easily distracted. They did know what they were talking about though, I could see that by their ability to speak of the war and certain people so confidently and matter-of-fact like. I think if I could personally talk with one of these men and have a one on one conversation I would greatly benefit from it. And we did get visuals as well from this video, I think I may have a biased towards Burns higher quality episodes and better usage of music, voices and visuals.

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Re: The Divided Union

by Xin Sun - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 10:44 PM

I think the advantage of these three different sources is that you can keep freshness appealing to the audience to follow the film to participate and think. The weakness is that it's too short to describe what happens, not to let the audience know the details, so that the audience needs to do extra work to know what they want to know the specific content. I think this arrangement, they work very well, praise each other, because it put similar things together with each other, so very intuitive to show the audience both sides of the advantages and disadvantages, so that the audience has a clear concept, this is Great.

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Thoughts on the 3 Sources

by Bailey Tillotson - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 11:37 PM

I would say that the book is the most detailed, or at least I feel I get more from it when it comes to the meat of the material. The book is more like storytelling for me, and I get a lot of information especially when the chapters are longer. The videos are

definitely informative, but more general to me for time's sake I'm sure. However, they provide many visuals and that can bring more drama to the subject. The clip was a nice and short add on to what we are covering, it was older and not so smooth in the presentation but they knew what they were talking about. I do think they compliment each other well, supporting information in different ways. I liked the video best when it came to the medical care, the book was the most helpful when it came to the battles or Lee and Grant, along with the clip for those two men as well.

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One documentary is better than the other

by Spencer Kellar - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 11:53 PM

I enjoyed the brief viewing of "Divided Union" primarily because it showed me exactly why "The Civil War" is so enjoyable and popular among viewers, despite its shortcomings. When taking a specific topic, such as the state of Civil War medical care, and comparing it across the three sources provided to us, you can see the pros and cons of each. I've argued, as I know others have as well, that this class succeeds because our professor has us learn material both from reading and by watching the documentary. I really enjoy the prose of James McPherson (though I admittedly find it can become repetitive during extended reading sessions), but even I believe that the documentary does a better job of giving the Civil War a more emotional context. When discussing the hospitals, the reading aloud of letters like the one written by Alexander Hunter give us insight that even McPherson might struggle with in the written word. The narrators themselves are of great importance; I'm sorry, but the professors standing awkwardly while stammering their way through Civil War facts on "Divided Union" don't hold a candle to the charming Southern drawl of Shelby Foote or the unique voice of Garrison Keillor that we hear in the Hospital segment, even if those professors are giving the viewers more important facts. So again, although I feel like I seem to repeat my conclusions, I think the strength of Ken Burns' documentary is its ability to make history more visceral and lively. It's a good companion for McPherson's book, which gives us a much more in-depth and factual account, but at the expense of "entertainment."

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Re: One documentary is better than the other

by Stanley Cates - Friday, February 24, 2017, 8:53 PM

Regarding your comment about the Civil War documentary giving more emotional context, how much of that do you suppose is based purely in the medium used as opposed to the skill level involved with such medium? That is to say, is Burns a better filmmaker than McPherson is a writer? Or is it simply that film is more

adept, has a better strength, at conveying emotional context than writing does? At this point I think it's important to distinguish between the strengths of the mediums and the strengths of the creators in those respective mediums.

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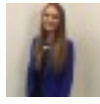
Re: One documentary is better than the other

by Spencer Kellar - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 9:55 PM

That's a good question, and it's sort of what I was trying to get at in my post. I *do* believe that film has an inherent advantage as a medium because it can bring to a subject to life visually. Certainly, great authors can create vivid scenes with their writing, but that takes immense skill. I won't claim to be a prolific reader of historic nonfiction, but McPherson ranks as one of the best authors in that genre that I have ever encountered. By extension, I think he's a better author than Burns is a director if for no other reason than because McPherson's job is more difficult and yet he still matches or surpasses Burns in most categories. At the same time, however, I think Burns is a master at his craft. To reiterate my point, "Divided Union" is a fairly good example of this because it readily highlights exactly where Burns succeeds.

"The Civil War" uses primary sources quite often, which humanizes the facts. Meanwhile, "Divided Union" opts to use Civil War experts. Whereas Burns uses the aforementioned Foote and Barbara Fields more sparingly, A&E gives Frank Vandiver almost two entire minutes (from 4:30 to 6:20) to describe the battle of Cold Harbor. While his information is interesting, it doesn't "pop" the same way Burns' documentary does. But more interestingly to me, is the fact that I don't even find this particular documentary to be as interesting as McPherson's work. He has a way of writing about battles: first building up to them, spending pages describing what occurred during the lead-up to the skirmishes, then deftly weaving a rich scene for each battle. Afterwards, he writes on the aftermath and its impact in a way that any reader can understand. For example, McPherson details the toll of Bloody Angle and Cold Harbor, writing, "These four weeks had been exhausting as well as bloody beyond precedent. The Federals suffered some 44,000 casualties, the Confederates about 25,000. This was a new kind of relentless, ceaseless warfare" (McPherson 733). It's straight to the point, far less winded than Vandiver's take, and gives him more space to describe the fighting in detail.

Sorry, I feel as if I've gone on a tangent here (McPherson I am not!). I am trying to say that while I think film has advantages that literature does not, which might explain why Burns' film is more impactful on an emotional level than Battle Cry of Freedom, you still have to be good at creating compelling documentaries. Funny enough, McPherson shows this best by outclassing the A&E documentary in my eyes.



Re: One documentary is better than the other

by Bailey Tillotson - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 11:35 PM

I had the same thoughts as you. I feel that I learn and absorb more from the episodes, it has that emotional piece that I don't get from the reading and the stiff Divided Union video. I of course respect the experts, but this is why such episodes and shows like Ken Burns are made, to have more of an attachment to something we're learning. I did like how in the episode that they differentiate when they would speak about Grant or Lee, we were able to get more background and a viewpoint of each person. Then they were tied together as we went over the battle of the Wilderness and Cold Harbor. I found myself at odds with what I wanted to happen (obviously it all already happened, but it's a habit to still hope for things to go certain ways based off your feelings, just like when you re-read a book and still get upset or happy every time), anyways, I felt as if I knew both men decently and wanted them both to succeed. The war has been made personal for us, and I personally respond very well to the visual aspect of it; for all I know it's because of my generation and it's constant use of technology.

I also agree that the McPherson writes well. Yes it can be a lot of information to absorb, and I sometimes find my mind wandering a little, but I still learn a lot from the reading. He is detailed and I can appreciate his thoroughness.

As a whole, each source we are given ties together nicely. Reiterating and ingraining the same information, just presented to us differently, helps it stick.

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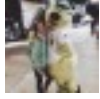
Did they work well together and compliment each other, or not?

by Holly Olson - Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 11:53 PM

When compared to one another I'd say it could get annoying at times, when in the Ken Burns documentary, that the timelines jumped around. It would talk about events that happened in 1863, jump back to other events and then lead to the next chapter titled, 1863. I think reading the book with it helps straighten out any confusion because it's very thorough and accurate to the timeline. It is nice to have a visual along with a text though. The videos seem to highlight different points and that is nice to not be getting just one aspect. I think the book would be great on it's own but

not the videos as far as a sole learning tool. I think being forewarned about the video's (Ken Burns') inaccuracy at times is necessary for anyone viewing it. Altogether though I think they all balance each other out and can fill in where the other may have missed.

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A Union Cry of Freedom

by Alexandra Zakett - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 7:08 PM

The McPherson textbook, the Ken Burns episode, and the clip from the Divided Union documentary cover the topics of Generals Lee and Grant, Civil War medical care & hospitals, and the Battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Kennesaw Mountain. In the documentary, A Divided Union, they compare Lee and Grant. Robert E. Lee unlike the other master generals could adapt to different military tactics. Winston Churchill referred him to as one of the last great old-fashioned generals. Grant viewed war not as a chess game but introduced the idea of total warfare. In 1864 Grant was named the LT. General of the entire Union army. The Battle of the Wilderness in 1864 was the first campaign where the two met. The Battle of the Wilderness took place in the areas between DC and Richmond. Both sides endured casualties of around 26,000. Grant refused to retreat and maintain pressure without pity. Another battle, Cold Harbor, was an important move for the South because it blunted Grant's movement with the North suffering 7,000 casualties within 30 minutes. This sent shock waves through Northern morale. This was also the battle that Grant earned the nickname the "Butcher." Kennesaw Mountain was a battle towards the end of Sherman's March to the Sea. He lost patience because he was growing closer to Atlanta and suffered more casualties here than in his entire campaign. Disease killed more men than battle did in the Civil War. People got sick from diseases such as small pox or chicken pox and would die. Knowledge of battlefield wounds, proper care, bad hygiene, sanitation, and sterilization led to infection and death. The survival rate of a wounded Vietnam soldier was 268/1 in the Civil War the rate was 1/7. The McPherson textbook, the Ken Burns episode, and the clip from the Divided Union documentary compliment each other and provide positive historical information.

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Re: A Union Cry of Freedom

by Spencer Kellar - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 10:35 PM

Your view, that the three sources up for discussion can and do coexist within the class, is interesting to me. Personally, I've approached this week's discussion analyzing "Divided Union" *versus* "Civil War," and how Battle Cry can supplement and fill in the necessary details for whichever documentary the viewer prefers.

That the two documentaries can work together is not something I spent as much time on, but actually has some merit. You brought up the discussion of General Grant and General Lee, which I actually think is one of the subjects that “Divided Union” arguably matches Burns’ film on. From the Winston Churchill quote on Lee that you mentioned to the depiction of Grant in the documentary as an unrelenting force, we are given a general view (no pun intended) of the two men. Meanwhile, in “Civil War,” we get a more detailed look at the lives of Grant and Lee before and during the war. During the Burns documentary, he uses a letter written about Grant to describe him. As the letter says, “His soldiers do not salute him, they only watch him with a sort of familiar reverence. They observe him coming, and rising to their feet, gather on each side of the way to see him pass. No Napoleonic displays, no ostentation, no superfluous flummery” (Burns 12:10).

For Lee, my favorite description of him is given by Shelby Foote, who says that “Lee is one of the most difficult people to talk about, because he has been immortalized...He’s been dehumanized the glory and worship. He was a warm, outgoing man. Always had time for any soldier’s complaint” (Burns 16:10).

These quotes go in a different direction than “Divided Union” in some ways, giving the viewer an idea of Grant’s and Lee’s personalities outside of battle whereas “Divided Union” spends most of its time in the clip telling us how the two men fared as military tacticians. But when thinking about your point, I suppose they don’t have to be contradictory. These two sources *can* indeed work together, to give us a more well-rounded view of two very important figures in the Civil War.

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Women in the War

by Bailey Tillotson - Sunday, February 26, 2017, 11:42 PM

One of my favorite subjects we’ve learned about the war is the women and nurses involved. When I was in middle school, I ended up intrigued by a book about Clara Barton. To this day I am unsure why I even picked it up, because what 13-year-old wants to read a book about a women and time I knew nothing about. Nevertheless, I read that book three times by the time I was done with middle school. I loved to hear about this women and all that she did. I can respect the many men involved in the war as well; but I think as a woman who has interests in nursing as well, I see the other side of the war as well. She was a great women, and such a hardworking and determined one at that. When I realized we were covering her, I became excited since I finally knew about something very well before I ever took this class. I watched the episode first, and enjoyed seeing the photos and visuals provided when they spoke of the hospitals and nurses. It evoked more emotion from within myself to finally put a clear face and picture to this woman and what she did, what she experienced. That is not something I got from reading the text.

◀ The Divided Union

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