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 - [Clips](#)
 - [Newsreel](#)
 - [All Subjects](#)
 - [Historical Eras](#)
 - [Years](#)
 - [Historical Events](#)
 - [People](#)
 - [Places](#)
 - [Topics](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Playlists](#)
- [What's New](#)
- [Help](#)

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in

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Transcript



[Episode 7: Most Hallowed Ground](#) from PBS (Public Broadcasting Service, 1990) 71:51.

transcript

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Nathan Bedford Forrest I require able-bodied men with good horse and gun. I wish none but those who desire to be actively engaged. Come on boys, if you want a heap of fun and to kill some Yankees. Nathan Bedford Forrest.

SHELBY FOOTE Writer

Shelby Foote Bedford Forrest's, granddaughter lived here in Memphis. She recently died and I got to

know her and she would let me swing his general saber around my head once, which was a great treat. And I had thought a long time and I will quote on and said, "I think that the war produced two authentic geniuses. One of them was your grandfather and the other was Abraham Lincoln." And then there was a silence at the other end of the phone, and she said, "Well, you know, in our family, we never thought much of Mr. Lincoln." She didn't like my coupling her grandfather with Abra, Abraham Lincoln, all these years later. Southerners are very estranged about that war.

THE CIVIL WAR EPISODE SEVEN

David McCullough There was fighting all across the country. The Sabine Crossroads near the Texas-Louisiana border, and down the Red River. On the Little Blue in Missouri, at Poison Spring in Jenkins Ferry in Arkansas, and far out in Indian Territory.

[sil.]

David McCullough By the summer of 1864, the Union initiative had ground to a halt. Despite its powerful industrial machine, despite increasing hardships for the South, the North was losing control of the war. As the casualty list grew longer, opposition to the war increased.

[sil.]

David McCullough With the presidential campaign looming, Abraham Lincoln now knew he would have to do something that had never been done before. Submit to a popular election during the Civil War and win it. "The struggle within and without," an adviser told Lincoln, "is for our national existence."

[sil.]

David McCullough At Petersburg, Robert E. Lee's entrenched army continued to resist Ulysses S. Grant's two-month-old siege. To end the stalemate, Union troops were digging deep beneath the Confederate lines. North of Atlanta, William Tecumseh Sherman would have to blast through an impenetrable system of trenches, breastworks and parapets to take the city, if he ever got there. That summer in the sweltering Mississippi heat, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, would cement his reputation as the most terrifying cavalry commander of the war. Meanwhile in the Shenandoah Valley, a diminutive Union general, Phil Sheridan, would gleefully wreck every farm and village he could lay his hands on. While in Richmond, Jefferson Davis struggled desperately to keep the idea of the Confederacy alive. At the end of the year, Union quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs would lose his son and bring his grief to the doorstep of Robert E. Lee. By the summer of 1864, people could hardly remember that there had ever been a time without war, and many did not believe it would ever end.

1864 Most Hallowed Ground

Henry Raymond Dear Mr. President, the tide is setting strongly against us. Two special causes are assigned to this great reaction and public sentiment. The want of military success at Petersburg and Atlanta and the impression that we are fighting not for Union, but for the abolition of slavery. Henry Raymond, Chairman, Republican National Committee.

[sil.]

David McCullough The siege of Petersburg went on. Morale had never been lower. "We should never have wars like this again," one Union soldier said. In less than six months, from the wilderness to Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor to Petersburg, Grant had nearly destroyed his army. The people are wild for peace, a newspaper reported. Lincoln's reelection is an impossibility.

[sil.]

David McCullough Nevertheless, 140,000 soldiers re-enlisted in the Union Army. Pride and patriotism had much to do with it, and the desire to see the thing through. And so did the promise of a month's furlough. "Three more years of hell," wrote one soldier, "in exchange for 30 days of heaven. Home."

Harper's Weekly. The political campaign which ends in the election of the 8th of November decides the most important question in history. It has always been the fate of Republics to be destroyed by faction. That fear is now about to be confirmed or dissipated forever.

David McCullough The key everyone knew was Atlanta. If Sherman could reach the railroad hub of the South, the war might end at last. But it was the stalemate in Virginia that concern Lincoln now.

A warm place in the field

Elisha Hunt Rhodes July 4th, 1864. The glorious fought has come again, and all he have had quite a celebration with gunfire and shot and shell into Petersburg to remind them of the day. This day makes four fought of Julys that I have passed in the army. The first at Camp Clark, the second at Harris's Landing, the third at Gettysburg, and today at Petersburg. I had a party of officers to dine with me, this was our bill of fare. Stewed oysters, canned, roast turkey, canned, bread pudding, tapioca pudding, apple pie made in camp, lemonade, cigars. Tomorrow, if we march, hardtack and salt pork will be our fare. Elisha Hunt Rhodes.

[sil.]

Harry Hammond The enemy throw a number of shells daily into Petersburg but they do little damage. The women and children seem not to mind them at all. On one street, yesterday, where such a number of shells bursted, I would have considered it a warm place in the field. Women were passing about with little concern, dodging around the corner when they heard a shell coming, or putting their heads out their windows to see what damage they done. A lady yesterday sent Ward Lowe(ph) and myself some ice cream and cakes. Harry Hammond.

[sil.]

David McCullough To relieve the pressure on Petersburg, Lee sent 10,000 men north to push Union troops out of the Shenandoah and harass Washington itself. In charge of the Southern forces was a ruthless Confederate general named Jubal Early. Early attacked Fort Stevens on the outskirts of Washington terrifying the city, despite the 74 forts that now made it the most heavily fortified city on earth.

[sil.]

David McCullough Federal troops, including Elisha Hunt Rhodes, were hastily brought up from Petersburg to protect the capital.

July 12th, 1864. We marched in line of battle into a peach orchard in front of Fort Stevens, and here, the fight began. For a short time it was warm work, but as the president and many ladies were looking at us, every man tried to do his best. Without our help, the small force in the forts would have been overpowered. Jubal Early should have attacked early in the morning, but Early was late.

[sil.]

David McCullough Meanwhile, to stop William Tecumseh Sherman's advance on Atlanta, Nathan Bedford Forrest was also on the move.

Nathan Bedford Forrest

Shelby Foote You ask him about ah, the most man in the world in some ways. Forrest was ah, ah, a natural genius. Someone said that he was born to be a soldier in the way John Keats was born to be a poet. Ah, he had some basic principles that when you translate them, they, they fit right into the Army Manual. When he said get there first with the most men, ah, he's saying, "Take the interior alliance and bring superior force to bear." Uhm, he had some very simple things. He used to say, "Hit 'em on the end," and he use to say, "Keep up the scare." And these are all good military principles we expressed in Forrest's own way. And he was able to look at a piece of ground and see how to use it. He had a marvelous sense of topography, uhm, he, he could see the, the, the, the key to a position and know where to hit.

David McCullough "Forrest," William Tecumseh Sherman later said, "was the most remarkable man our Civil War produced on either side. "He was the son of an illiterate blacksmith. He made himself a millionaire selling land, cotton and slaves. In 1861, he enlisted as a private then quit to raise and equip an entire cavalry battalion out of his own pocket. By the end of the war, he had become lieutenant general, the only man on either side to rise so far. He was the most feared cavalry commander of the war. The wizard of the saddle, wounded four times in battle, and famous for having horses shot out from under him.

ED BEARSS Historian

Ed Bearss Old Bedford Forrest, he's the most colorful man in the war. He killed more men than any other general officer ever has, had more horses shot out from under him than any other officer ever had.

Shelby Foote He had 30 horses shot from under him in the course of the war and he killed 31 men in hand to hand combat. He said, "I was a horse ahead at the end."

David McCullough He was a master of the lightning raid and an expert at winning against long odds. He fought his battles, he said, by ear. And he could anticipate an enemy's movements with uncanny precision.

Shelby Foote He was on a surprising battle once. It was a place called Parker's Crossroads up in Tennessee. He was on a raid. And he was, ah, closing in on an opponent and fixing to finish him off when he was attacked in the rear by a force that he did not suspect within many miles and everybody was terribly upset. And they said, "General, what shall we do?" and he said, "Split in two and charge both ways," and did, and got out.

David McCullough In June 1864, in an attempt to cut-off Sherman's supplies at Brice's Crossroads near Tupelo, Mississippi, Forrest outdid even himself. The Union Army coming to stop him was nearly three times as strong as his, but Forrest was unimpressed. Factoring in the mud-clogged roads and the blazing mid-June sun, he predicted the Union cavalry would arrive well ahead of the Union infantry giving him time to whip it on his own terms. It all happened exactly as he said. No army, it seemed, could stop him. Forrest was free to slash at Sherman's forces, slowing his approach to Atlanta.

William Tecumseh Sherman Forrest must be hunted down and killed if it cost 10,000 lives and bankrupts at Federal Treasury. William Tecumseh Sherman.

Summer, 1864

Who shall revive me within hopes that bloomed at the opening of Grant's campaign. All are tired of this damnable tragedy. Each hour is but sinking us deeper into bankruptcy and desolation. New York World.

David McCullough The summer of 1864 was the North's darkest hour. Grant's losses had been appalling. His army was stalled in front of Petersburg. His grand strategy apparently come to nothing. Franz Sigel's army had been routed in the Shenandoah. Ben Butler was bottled up in a loop of the James River called the Bermuda Hundred. Even William Tecumseh Sherman was stalled outside Atlanta.

Horace Greeley Mr. Lincoln is already beaten. He cannot be re-elected and we must have another ticket. Horace Greeley.

David McCullough No nation had ever held an election in the midst of a civil war. No president since Andrew Jackson had won a second term. Long after Lincoln was nominated, politicians in his own party still hoped to reconvene and pick another nominee. Even Lincoln believed his re-election unlikely.

Abraham Lincoln We cannot have free government without elections, and if the rebellion could force us to forego or postpone a national election, it might fairly be claimed to have already conquered and ruined us. Abraham Lincoln.

After four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war, we demand that immediate effort be made for a cessation of hostilities at the earliest practicable moment. Democratic National Platform

David McCullough The Democrats wanted an end to the war, with or without victory. Their nominee was General George McClellan, whose ambition had not shrunk since Lincoln removed him from command.

McClellan was our first commander and as such, he was almost worshipped by his soldiers. The political friends of General McClellan well understood that fact and it was a very crafty thing for them to nominate him as their candidate for the presidency.

David McCullough The South rejoiced at McClellan's nomination. "The first ray of real light," Vice-President Alexander Stephen said, "since the war began." Wherever it could, the South exploited anti-war feeling in the North. The Confederate government sent money to support the Union Peace Movement. It painted Lincoln as the candidate of war. The campaign was ugly. Democrats charged at the real goal of Old Abe's war was miscegenation, a new word for the blending of White and Black. Republicans charged Democrats with treason. The 1864 presidential election had become a referendum on the war itself.

STEPHEN B. OATES Historian

Stephen B. Oates All the word from all Republicans even on the lo, most local level indicated that Lincoln couldn't possibly win. The fortunes of war had turned too badly, too sour for the Union. At one really poignant moment, Lincoln set in the privacy of his office contemplating the fact that he probably wasn't going to be re-elected and that McClellan, of all people, would replace him as president.

Abraham Lincoln This morning, as for some days passed, it seems exceedingly probable that this administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to so cooperate with the president-elect as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration, as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save it afterward.

David McCullough Pressured to drop emancipation as a condition of peace with the South, Lincoln refused. "The proclamation had promised freedom," Lincoln said, "and the promise being made must be kept."

Abraham Lincoln I should be damned in time and in eternity if I were to return to slavery, the black warriors who have fought for the Union.

Spies

[foreign language]

Spy Johnson was shot near a coffin.

[sil.]

David McCullough Even before Bull Run, stolen secrets in intricate codes streamed between Washington and Richmond.

[sil.]

David McCullough Allan Pinkerton ran the Northern Secret Service, while Confederate Major William Norris had a spy network that extended as far north as Montreal. In 1864, several Southern

agents even invaded Vermont. Spies were everywhere.

Mary Chesnut Women who come before the public are in a bad box now. All manner of things they say, come over the border under the huge hoops now worn. So they are ruthlessly torn off. Not legs, but arms are looked for under hoops. And sad to say, found. Mary Chesnut.

David McCullough Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a Washington widow ran a Confederate spy ring just a few blocks from the White House. Much of her information came from an infatuated suitor, Senator Henry Wilson, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee.

[sil.]

David McCullough Imprisonment failed to stop Belle Boyd from coaxing secrets out of Union officers in Washington and passing them on in code to Richmond inside rubber balls that she toss from her cell window to a shadowy agent she knew only as CH. Her admirers called her La Belle Rebel.

David McCullough Slaves and former slaves made especially good Union operatives, guiding northern troops through swamps and forests and reporting on their masters. After all, one Union officer said, "They had been spies all their lives." One northern agent, a black servant named Mary Elizabeth Bowser even worked inside the Confederate White House.

[sil.]

David McCullough In November of 1863, a southern courier, Sam Davis, was sentenced to death at Pulaski, Tennessee for spying. On the scaffold, Davis's bravery proved so moving that the commanding general was unable to give the order of execution. Davis finally gave it himself.

The Crater

David McCullough July 21st, Thursday. In front of Petersburg, the mine which General Burnside is making causes a good deal of talk and is generally much laughed at. It is an affair of his own entirely, and had nothing to do with the regular siege. For a month, a regiment of Pennsylvania coal miners work to dig a 500-foot tunnel beneath the Confederate lines and pack it with four tons of gun powder. Burnside's idea was to blow a hole in the Petersburg defenses, then rush through to take the town. Above ground, not far from the tunnel, the unsuspecting Confederate commander was General William Mahone, a veteran of almost every major battle fought by the army of Northern Virginia. At dawn on July 30th, Union sappers lit the fuse.

[sil.]

David McCullough A great crater was torn in the Earth, 30 feet deep, 70 feet wide, 250 feet long. The stunned Confederates fell back then the plan began to fall apart. A precious hour went by before the Union Assault Force got started and when it did, three divisions stormed down into the great hole rather than around it.

David McCullough Their commander, General James H. Ledlie, did not even watch the battle, huddling instead in the bombproof shelter with a bottle of rum. Once inside the crater the Union

soldiers found there was no way up the sheer 30-foot wall of the pit, and no one had thought to provide ladders. General Mahone ordered his men back to the rim to pour fire down upon them.

David McCullough Scores of black troops were killed when they tried to surrender at the Crater, bayoneted or clubbed by Confederates shouting, "Take the white man! Kill the nigger!"

[sil.]

Ulysses S. Grant It was the saddest affair I have ever witnessed in the war. Such opportunity for carrying fortifications I have never seen and do not expect again to have. Ulysses S. Grant.

David McCullough General Ledlie was dismissed from the service. Burnside was granted extended leave and never recalled to duty.

Washington Roebling July 30th 1864. The work and expectations of almost two months have been blasted. The first temporary success had elated everyone so much that we already had imagined ourselves in Petersburg, but 15 minutes changed it all and plunged everyone into a feeling of despair almost of ever accomplishing anything. Few officers can be found this evening who have not drowned their sorrows in the flowing bowl. Washington Roebling.

[sil.]

Robert B. Ely The day has been so excessively hot that I'm almost melted. The thermometer in the wardroom stands at 90 degrees, while on deck the weather is very pleasant, a fair breeze blowing from the east. Everything is dirty, everything smells bad, everybody is demoralized. How are you Ironclad? A man who would stay in an ironclad from choices are candidate for the insane asylum and he who stays from compulsion is an object of pity. Fresh leaks are breaking out everyday. Robert B. Ely.

David McCullough For two full years now, Union troops had occupied Fort Pulaski at the entrance to Savannah Harbor, blocking Confederate's supplies and waiting patiently for a Union Army to come and seize the city itself.

David McCullough To fill the time, the men played baseball, thus becoming the national past time, south as well as north. But 300 miles away, Sherman was stuck in the hills of North Georgia. The enemy must have at least 50 miles of connected trenches, he wrote. The whole county is one vast fort.

Headquarters, U.S.A.

Albinus Fell But I think the damn low cuss of a preacher lied like Dixie. For he said that God has fought all our battles and won our victories. Now, if he had done all that, why is it not in the papers and why has he not been promoted? Sergeant Albinus Fell.

Orville C. Bumpass Is it possible that God will bless a people as wicked as our soldier? I fear not. One unceasing tide of blasphemy and wickedness, coarseness and obscenity. Orville C. Bumpass.

David McCullough Men bet on anything, boxing matches, horse races, baseball games, and cock fights. In Union camps, victorious birds named Grant and Bill Sherman fought losers called, Beauregard, Jeff Davis, and Bob Lee.

Sam Watkins The boys would frequently have a louse race. The lice were placed in plates and the first to crawl off was the winner. There was one fella named Dornin(ph) who was winnin' all the money. We could not understand it. If a fella happened to catch a fairish looking louse, he would call on Dornin(ph) for a race. Dornin(ph) would come and always win the stake. At last we found out Dornin's(ph) trick. He always heated the plate. Sam Watkins.

Rutland, Vermont. Dear Edward, it will be hard to have all my sons go, but if it is right I have nothing to say. As you value your good name, your peace of mind and happiness here and hereafter, do keep aloof from card playing, for imperceptibly you will be led, I fear, to gambling. Your devoted mother.

David McCullough There were in all 450 brothels in Washington D.C. known to steady customers as Fort Sumter, Madam Russell's Bake Oven and Headquarters, U.S.A. Men called a trip there going down the line.

Eli Vessey I had a good time in Washington, lager beer and a horse and buggy, and in the evening horse saddle refreshments, or in plainer words, riding a Dutch cow. I had a good time generally, I tell you. Private Eli Vessey(ph).

The Promised Land

In the City of New Orleans, we could see signs of smothered hate and prejudice to both out color and present characters of Union soldiers. But for once in his life, your humble correspondent walked fearlessly and boldly through the streets of a southern city. And he did this without being required to take off his cap at every step, or to give all the sidewalks to those lordly princess of the sunny south, the planter sons. Oh, chivalry. How hast thou lost thy potent power and charms. By what means, pray tell me, hast thou sold to generate it, as to lose a respect and admiration even if disabled sons of Africa.

David McCullough That summer Congress finally passed legislation giving black soldiers equal pay with whites.

David McCullough On August 5th 1864, Union Admiral David Farragut led 18 ships storming past three-fourths to engage the Confederate fleet guarding Mobile Bay.

David McCullough Farragut suffered from vertigo so intense. He ordered himself latched to the rigging of his flagship. When a mine sank the lead vessel and the captains of the other ships hesitated, Farragut shouted, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." and rammed and shelled the rebel fleet into submission.

[sil.]

David McCullough It was the first good news for the Union and Lincoln all year.

[sil.]

Benjamin Franklin Jackson In camp, near Atlanta. Dear companion, I seek myself one time more in life to drop you a few lines. I am more out marching. We have been running from one place to another

for five days. I must close for it is a very bad place to write. Benjamin Franklin Jackson.

David McCullough Back in Alabama, Benjamin Franklin Jackson's wife Martha awoke with a start. A morning dove was sitting on her window sill. She took it as a sign her husband had been killed and began to weep silently, so that her family would not hear her grief and think her superstitious. Her husband had been fatally wounded that morning in battle with Sherman's men.

[sil.]

My knives have beheld the promised land. The domes and spires of Atlanta are glittering in the sunlight before us at only eight miles distant.

David McCullough Finally, Sherman was at Atlanta. For more than two months Confederate General Joseph Johnston had kept his army intact. Dodging Sherman's superior force and looking for the right moment to attack. The opportunity never came. An increasingly frustrated Jefferson Davis now removed the popular Johnston. His troops were stunned.

Sam Watkins The news came like a flash of lightning staggering and blinding everyone. Farewell old fellow. We privates loved you because you made us love ourselves. Sam Watkins.

David McCullough Joseph Johnston's replacement was 33-year-old John Bell Hood of Texas. His arm had been mangled at Gettysburg and he'd lost a leg at Chickamauga, but his recklessness remained intact. His men called him "Old Wooden Head."

Robert E. Lee Hood is a bullfighter. I am doubtful as to other qualities necessary. Robert E. Lee.

David McCullough Sherman was delighted with Hood. Sure he would be attacked at last. Many of his units were now armed with Henry repeating rifles capable of firing 15 shots without being reloaded. Outgunned rebels complained the Yankees could now load on a Sunday and keep shooting all week.

[sil.]

David McCullough To cut off Atlanta's rail links with Richmond, Sherman sent 35-year-old General James McPherson's army east of the city. McPherson was a special favored of Sherman's handsome, warm hearted, intelligent. If he live, Sherman predicted, he'll outdistance Grant and myself. Northern papers cheer the Union advance and daily predicted Atlanta's fall.

[sil.]

David McCullough But on July 22nd, Hood rushed to counter the new Union threat. The Battle of Atlanta had begun.

[sil.]

David McCullough It raged all afternoon. The lines forming, falling back, reforming, attacking again. At two o'clock, General McPherson himself went to inspect the imperiled Union position. The road right into a band of rebel skirmishers. Ordered to surrender, McPherson raised his hat politely, turned his horse about and raced for the Union lines. The rebels shot him in the back.

David McCullough Sherman covered the body of his young friend with an American Flag and wept.

Jacob D. Cox Sherman had the rare faculty of remaining calm under great responsibilities and scenes of great excitement. In such times his eccentricities disappeared. His mind seemed never so clear, his confidence never so strong, his spirit never so inspiring in the crisis of some fear struggle. Like that of the day when McPherson fell in front of Atlanta. General Jacob D. Cox

David McCullough Crying McPherson and revenge boys, McPherson and revenge the Union Army smashed down on the rebels.

[sil.]

David McCullough In less than 30 minutes, Hood was forced to withdraw.

[sil.]

David McCullough At Ezra Church, west of the city, Hood again tried to route Sherman's army, again, he failed. A third of his army was gone, 20,000 men and Hood fell back into Atlanta.

Sam Watkins I cannot describe it. I remember I went in the rear of the building and there I saw a pile of arms and legs rotting and decomposing. I have no recollection in my whole life of ever seeing anything that I remember with more horror. Sam Watkins.

[sil.]

David McCullough Behind their ramparts the Confederates waited for Sherman to attack. The Yankee gents can't get their man to charge or work, Sutexon(ph) said, but Sherman saw no need to be so rash. He sealed off the city's supplies and waited.

David McCullough Federal guns began shelling the heavily fortified Confederate trenches and the city beyond.

[sil.]

Saturday, August 21st, another week of anxiety and suspense has passed and the fate of Atlanta is still undecided. It is said that about 20 lives had been destroyed by this terrible missiles since the enemy began to throw them into the city. It is like living in the midst of a pestilence, no one can tell, but he may be the next victim.

David McCullough "Outside Atlanta things were no better; the enemy hold us by an inferior force," Sherman admitted as the siege dragged on. "We are more besieged than they." Both Grant and Sherman, George Templeton Strong predicted from New York are on the eve of disaster.

[sil.]

David McCullough Every evening for a month during the siege, Georgia's sharpshooter played his cornet so beautifully that men on both sides stopped to listen.

[sil.]

David McCullough Finally, on August 31st, the same day that George McClellan was nominated for president, Sherman hurled most of his army against the Macon & Western Railroad south of the city in one more attempt to brake Hood's grip; it worked. September 1st 1864, Hood abandoned Atlanta.

[sil.]

David McCullough Sherman's troops marched in the next day.

"Atlanta is ours and fairly won."

George Templeton Strong September 3rd 1864. "Glorious news this morning, Atlanta taken at last. It is coming at this political crisis the greatest event of the war." George Templeton Strong.

U.S. Grant " Dear General Sherman, I feel you have accomplished the most gigantic undertaking given to any general in this war. And with the skill and ability that will be acknowledged in history as unsurpassed, if not unequaled." U.S. Grant.

David McCullough In Sherman's honor, Grant ordered a 100-gun salute fired into the Confederate works at Petersburg.

Mary Chesnut "Atlanta is gone. That agony is over. There is no hope, but we will try to have no fear." Mary Chesnut.

[sil.]

David McCullough To avenge Sherman's victories in Georgia, six Confederate agents slipped into New York City armed with phosphorus, intend upon burning down the city's most fashionable hotels. They managed to light ten fires and set P.T. Barnum's Museum ablaze. Firemen put everything out, all but one of the Confederates got away. "The people of the North can't be rolling in wealth and comfort," the captured man said before he was hanged, "while we at the South are bearing all the hardship and privations."

[sil.]

David McCullough From the front, on his wedding anniversary, Robert E. Lee wrote home to his wife in Richmond.

ROBERT E. LEE "Dear Mary, do you recollect what a happy day 33 years ago this was? How many hopes and pleasures you gave birth to. God has been very merciful and kind to us, and how thankless and sinful I have been. I pray that he may continue his mercies and blessings to us and give us a little peace and rest together in this world."

The Age of Shoddy

Abraham Lincoln "That man Haupt has built a bridge across the Potomac Creek about 400 feet long

and nearly a hundred feet tall, over which loaded trains are running every hour, and there is nothing in it, but beanpoles and cornstalks." Abraham Lincoln.

[sil.]

David McCullough Near Petersburg, the Union camp of City Point on the James River suddenly found itself one of the world's busiest sea ports. With bakeries, barracks, warehouses, 200-acred tent hospital more than a mile of wards, and a new 70-mile railroad built by Herman Haupt in record time to bring supplies and fresh troops right up to the Union trenches. "Not merely profusion but extravagance," a visitor wrote, "soldiers provided with everything."

[sil.]

David McCullough An industrial machine of unparalleled power now kept the war supply streaming to the front. In Cleveland, Ohio when the war began, there was not a single forge or foundry. When the war ended, there were 21, employing 3000 men and turning out 60,000 tons of steel a year. By then the Cold Spring Foundry opposite West Point on the Hudson was producing 7000 artillery projectiles a week, and the military telegraph system was carrying over 3300 messages a day along 15,000 miles of wire.

The world has seen its iron age, its silver age, its golden age, and its bronze age. This is the age of Shoddy.

David McCullough For shrewd northern businessmen there were quick profits in army contracts. Philip Armour gave up gold mining to strike it rich packing pork for the Army. Samuel Colt of Hartford told his men to run the armory night and day with double sets of hands. Jay Cooke sold war bonds, raised more than \$400 million for the Union, and got rich on the commissions. Unscrupulous contractors sold the war department rusty rifles, boats that leaked, caps that melded in the rain. When one manufacturer was asked why the soles of the shoes he supplied fell off after a few minutes marching, he explained that they had been meant for the cavalry.

You can sell almost anything to the government at almost any price you've got the guts to ask.

SHELBY FOOTE Writer

Shelby Foote I think that the North fought that war with one hand behind its back. At the same time the war was going on the homestead actors being passed, all these marvelous inventions were going on. Ah, in the spring of '64, the Harvard-Yale boat races were going on and not a man in either crew ever volunteered for their Army or the Navy, they didn't need them. Ah, I think that if it had been more southern successes and a lot more, the North simply would have brought that other arm out from behind its back. Ah, I don't think South ever had a chance to win that war.

Can those be men?

David McCullough Out west, "Bloody Bill" Anderson, a Confederate guerilla who rode with Union scouts tied to his bridle led 30 men into Centralia, Missouri, killed 24 unarmed Federal soldiers then ambushed 116 more. On October 26th, Anderson himself was ambushed and killed, but one of his close lieutenants, Jesse James, got away.

David McCullough In Tennessee, Nathan Bedford Forrest's men surrounded Fort Pillow held by a unit of Tennessee Unionists and black troops and demanded its surrender. When the Union commander refused, the fort was overrun. As many as 300 soldiers, most of them Black, were killed; many after they surrendered.

Nathan Bedford Forrest "It is hoped that these facts will demonstrate to the northern people that Negro soldiers cannot cope with Southerners." Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Private George Shaw "I said, Don't shoot me. And one of 'em said, "Go out and hold my horse." I made a step or two and he said, "Turn around. I will hold my horse and shoot you too." Ah, I no, no sooner turned around and he shot me in the face. I fell down as if I was dead. He shot me again and hit my arm, not in the head. I laid there until I could hear him no more, and then I started back. I got back about sun up and wondered about until a gunboat came along; I came up on that with about ten others." Private George Shaw Company B Sixth U.S. Heavy Artillery.

David McCullough In retaliation for Fort Pillow, Grant ended the system under which prisoners had always been exchanged until the South agreed to recognize no distinction whatever between white and colored prisoners; Davis and Lee refused. North and south prisons soon bulged with unexchanged prisoners. Already inadequate prison camps became nightmares.

[sil.]

David McCullough The worst was the Confederate prison near Andersonville, Georgia. Meant to hold a maximum of 10,000 northern prisoners, by August 1864, it had 33,000, the fifth largest city in the Confederacy. Its commandant, a German-Swiss immigrant named Henry Wirz forbade prisoners to build shelters. Most lived in holes scratched in the ground covered by a blanket. The daily ration was a teaspoon of salt, three tablespoons of beans, and a half pint of cornmeal. A foul creek called Sweetwater Branch served as both drinking water and sewer.

One-third of the original enclosure was swampy. A mud of liquid filth voiding from the thousand seething with maggots and foul activity. Death at the hands of the guards on murder and cold blood was merciful besides a systematic study to absolute murder inside by slow death.

[sil.]

David McCullough In one year, 13,000 men died at Andersonville and were buried in mass graves.

[sil.]

Walt Whitman "Can those be men? Are they not really corpses? They lay there, most of them, quite still but with a horrible look in their eyes. The dead there are not to be pitied as much as some of the living that have come from there. If they can be called living." Walt Whitman.

When I was taken prisoner, I weighed 165 pounds, and when I came out, I weighed 96 pounds and was considered stout compared with some I saw.

My heart aches for these poor wretches, Yankees though they are, and I am afraid God will suffer

some terrible retribution to fall upon us for letting such things happen. If the Yankees should ever come to southwest Georgia and go to Anderson and see the graves there, God have mercy on the land.

The People's Resolution

David McCullough With Sherman's victory at Atlanta, Lincoln's chances of re-election were improving. And now came more bad news for the Confederacy; Phil Sheridan and 45,000 men were on the loose in the Shenandoah.

General Phil Sheridan "The whole country from the Blue Ridge to the North mountains has been made untenable for a rebel army. I have destroyed over 2000 barns filled with wheat hay and farming implements and over 70 mills. Tomorrow, I will continue the destruction. When this is completed, the valley will have but little in it for man or beast." General Phil Sheridan.

Shelby Foote He was sent there to clear it out once and for all. Ah, his instructions were to strip it so clean that a crow flying across it would kept to carry its own provender and he came close to doing it.

David McCullough No Union officer was fonder of fighting than Sheridan, none say if Sherman was so relentless. His orders were to follow Jubal Early to the death. Before dawn on October 18th, Jubal Early tried one last time to destroy Sheridan's army by attacking at Cedar Creek, while Sheridan himself was asleep at Winchester 20 miles away. At first, it seemed Early had succeeded, Union forces were driven from their camps. Sheridan mounted his great black horse, Rienzi, and galloped through his retreating men urging them to turn back; they stopped and began to chant his name. "God damn you!" Sheridan shouted, "Don't cheer me, fight!" The Union lines reformed and went back the field. Early fled and the Shenandoah was closed forever to the Confederacy.

Abraham Lincoln "General Sheridan, when this particular war began, I thought a cavalryman should be at least 6 foot 4 inches high, but I have changed my mind. Five feet four will do in a pinch." Abraham Lincoln.

David McCullough At Petersburg, Grant fired a second 100 gun volley into the enemy works.

[sil.]

Walt Whitman "Dear Nat, I think well of the President, he has a face like a Hoosier Michelangelo, so awful ugly it becomes beautiful, with its strange mouth, its deep cut crisscross lines, and its doughnut complexion. I do not dwell on the supposed failures of his government. He has shown an almost supernatural tact in keeping the ship afloat at all. I more and more rely upon his idiomatic western genius." Walt Whitman.

[sil.]

Harper's Weekly. Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson had been elected by enormous and universal majorities in almost all the states. This result is the proclamation of the American people that they are not conquered. This is what they confirmed by the re-election of Mr. Lincoln. In himself, he is unimportant, but as the representative of the feeling and purpose of the American people, he is the most important fact in the world.

Abraham Lincoln I give thanks to the Almighty for this evidence of the people's resolution. This contest has demonstrated to the world that a people's government can sustain a national election in the midst of a Great Civil War.

David McCullough Sherman's and Sheridan's victories had changed the odds. Lincoln carried 55 percent of the popular vote. Only three states; Kentucky, Delaware, and New Jersey went to George McClellan. Virtually, all of the general's old command the Union Army of the Potomac voted for Abraham Lincoln.

That grand old Army performed many heroic acts, but never in its history did it do a more devoted service than vote for Abraham Lincoln.

[sil.]

Jefferson Davis "Not the fall of Richmond nor Wilmington, nor Charleston, nor Savannah, nor Mobile, nor all combined can save the enemy from the constant and exhaustive drain of blood and treasure which must continue until he shall discover that no peace is attainable unless based on the recognition of our indefeasible rights." President Jefferson Davis.

David McCullough If it hadn't began before, the lost cause was born with his words. As Davis spoke at Richmond, his audience could hear Grant's guns at Petersburg just 20 miles away. More and more, it was becoming a confederacy of the mind.

Shelby Foote It was a realization that defeat was foreordained. Ms. Chesnut once have said it's like in a Greek tragedy while you know what the outcome is bound to be, and we are living in Greek tragedy. And things began to close then on and more and more, ah, there was scarcity of family that hadn't lost someone, ah, there were disruption of society and the blockade which working, they couldn't get very simple things back needles to sew with ah, very simple things. And ah, discourage not to begin to settle and more and more with the realization that they were not gonna win that war. Ah, their political leaders, did everything they could especially Jefferson Davis to assure them that this was the second American revolution, and if they would ah, stand fast the way their forefathers had. The victory was on question if they're gonna come. But realization came more and more, that it was not gonna come especially if they were not gonna get far in recognition. Without which we wouldn't won the first revolution. And all those things closed in on them.

Most Hallowed Ground

David McCullough In the north, the reservoir of men seemed bottomless. Whole units like the third Massachusetts volunteers had still never heard the shot fired in anger. Lincoln now issued a proclamation making the last Thursday of November a national day of Thanksgiving.

[sil.]

David McCullough In the trenches at Petersburg, a 120,000 turkey and chicken dinners were served to Grant's huge army. Only yards away, the Confederates had no feast, but held their fire all day out of respect for the Union holiday. Lincoln called for more men to finish the war. The South had no more men to spare. And William Tecumseh Sherman had began his march to the sea.

[sil.]

We lay in grim repose and expected the renewal of a mortal conflict. The conviction everywhere prevailed that we could sustain, but one more campaign. Captain James FJ Caldwell.

[sil.]

David McCullough On the night of November 25th at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway Shakespeare's Julius Caesar opened. Three brothers had the starring roles; Edwin, Julius, and John Wilkes Booth. At one point in Shakespeare's play, Cassius speaks of the assassination of Caesar. How many ages hence shall this our lofty scene be acted over in states unborn and accents yet unknown?

[sil.]

Captain Clap 77th New York wounded at Petersburg. Captain Smith 77th New York wounded at Wilderness. Captain Taylor 61st Pennsylvania wounded at Spotsylvania. Captain Orr 77th New York lost arm at Cedar Creek. Captain Defoe(ph) eye shot out at Spotsylvania. Major Ellis 49th New York died of wound at Spotsylvania. Captain Hickmuth(ph) 49th New York killed at Wilderness. Lieutenant Lyon(ph) 77th New York killed at Spotsylvania. Lieutenant Belding(ph) 77th New York killed at Cedar Creek. Union officers all killed in battle.

Washington Roebling It really looks as if it would never end. The most inspiring side is the flock of buzzards constantly hovering over us and waiting for their feast. Most birds are at least impartial because they eat both sides alike. The same, I suppose, is true of worms. Washington Roebling.

[sil.]

David McCullough By the spring of 1864, Union dead completely filled the military cemeteries of Washington and Alexandria. Secretary of War Stanton ordered the Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs to choose a new site. Meigs was a Georgian who had served under Lee in the peacetime army, but he had developed an intense hatred for all his fellow Southerners who fought against the Union he still served. Without hesitation, he picked the grounds of Robert E. Lee's home at Arlington for the New Army cemetery and ordered that the Union dead be laid to rest within a few feet at the front door of the man he blamed for their deaths, so that no one could ever again live in the house.

[sil.]

David McCullough In October, Meigs' own son, John, was killed by Confederate guerillas in the Shenandoah and buried in Mrs. Lee's rose garden.

David McCullough At one point that year, the Union Army was sending back 2000 wounded men and dying men a week to Washington. Now, the men Grant was sending to fight Robert E. Lee are being buried in Lee's own front yard. And that yard became Arlington National Cemetery, the Union's most hallowed ground.

A Film by KEN BURNS Produced by KEN BURNS and RIC BURNS Written by GEOFFREY C. WARD and RIC BURNS with KEN BURNS Edited by PAUL BARNES BRUCE SHAW TRICIA

REIDY Narrated by DAVID McCULLOUGH Voices SAM WATERSTON Abraham Lincoln JULIE HARRIS Mary Chesnut JASON ROBARDS Ulysses S. Grant MORGAN FREEMAN Frederick Douglass PAUL ROEBLING Joshua L. Chamberlain, etc. GARRISON KEILLOR Walt Whitman, etc. GEORGE BLACK Robert E. Lee ARTHUR MILLER William T. Sherman CHRIS MURNEY Pvt. Elisha Hunt Rhodes CHARLEY McDOWELL Pvt. Sam Watkins HORTON FOOTE Jefferson Davis GEORGE PLIMPTON George Templeton Strong PHILIP BOSCO Horace Greeley, etc. TERRY COURIER George McClellan JODY POWELL Stonewall Jackson, etc. STUDS TERKEL Benjamin F. Butler With DEREK JACOBI PAMELA REED JEREMY IRONS RONNIE GILBERT KURT VONNEGUT M. EMMET WALSH GENE JONES HOYT AXTON JEROME DEMPSEY JOHN HARTFORD LARRY FISHBURNE WALT MACPHERSON SHELBY FOOTE COLLEEN DEWHURST BETSY APPLE LATANYA RICHARDSON CAROL CRAVEN BRADFORD WASHBURN MARISSA COPELAND JESSE CARR HALO WINES WENDY TILGHMAN DAVID MARKS JOE MATTYS and LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EX-SLAVE RECORDINGS Cinematography KEN BURNS ALLEN MOORE BUDDY SQUIRES Assistant Editors PHOEBE YANTSIOS MEREDITH WOODS Apprentice Editors JOSHUA LEVIN ED BARTESKI Coordinating Producer CATHERINE EISELE Associate Producer/Post-Production LYNN NOVICK Co-Producers STEPHEN IVES JULIE DUNFEY MIKE HILL Consultants SHELBY FOOTE BARBARA J. FIELDS C. VANN WOODWARD DON FEHRENBACHER STEPHEN SEARS WILLIAM MCFEELY JAMES MCPHERSON RICHARD SNOW MIKE MUSICK BERNARD WEISBERGER ERIC FONER STEPHEN B. OATES ROBERT JOHANNSEN DANIEL AARON WILLAM E. LEUCHTENBURG TOM LEWIS CHARLES FULLER CHARLEY MCDOWELL IRA BERLIN GENE SMITH ROBERT PENN WARREN JEROME LIEBLING DAYTON DUNCAN AMY STECHLER BURNS Senior Creative Consultant DAVID MCCULLOUGH Associate Producers CAMILLA ROCKWELL SUSANNA STEISEL Additional Cinematography FOSTER WYLIE Research Assistant LOVEL RICHARDSON Assistant Camera AMY STECHLER BURNS BRUCE KERN JEFFREY VICTOR Post Production Coordinator PHOEBE YANTSIOS Editing Interns MIKE BALABUCH JONATHAN BARON ROBERT BLUMENFIELD JENNIFER BROWN DAVID CANTOR CHRISTINE COSCIONI VIDA FITZGERALD MICHAEL FOXWORTH ELISA HABER LINDA KONG PATRICK McGUINN DAVID McQUILING ROBERT MOWEN ERIC MORTENSON DAVID NELSON MYRA PACI Animation Stand Photography THE FRAME SHOP EDWARD JOYCE & EDWARD SEARLES CARLOS SANCHEZ Map Animation BALSMEYER & EVERETT, INC. Still Photography ROBERT BURGESS STEPHEN PETEGOSKY Traditional Music JACQUELINE SHWAB Piano JAY UNGAR Fiddle, Mandolin MATT GLASSER Fiddle JESSE CARR Guitar, Recorder, Vocals MOLLY MASON Guitar, Bass PEGGY JAMES Violin YONATHAN MALIN Flute PETER AMIDON Banjo PETER ECKLUND Coronet DON BROOKS Guitar, Mandolin RUSS BARENBERG Harmonica And THE OLD BETHPAGE BRASS BAND DR. KIRBY JOLLY, DIRECTOR Musical Direction KEN BURNS JOHN COLBY Engineer DON WERSHBA Music recorded at SOUNDESIGN Brattleboro, Vermont and SOUNDTRACK NY New York City "ASHOKAN FAREWELL" Composed by JAY UNGAR Courtesy of Flying Fish Records "WE ARE CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER" Arranged & Performed by BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON Songtalk Publishing Co. Courtesy of Flying Fish Records "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC" Performed by THE SANCTUARY CHOIR of THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH DR. JEWEL T. THOMPSON, DIRECTOR "HAIL TO THE CHIEF", "LISTEN TO THE MOCKING BIRD", "PALMYRA SCHOTTISCHE", "HAIL COLUMBIA", "FREISCHUTZ QUICKSTEP", "PARADE", "DIXIE", "BONNIE BLUE FLAG", "LUTO QUICKSTEP", "CHEER BOYS, CHEER", "WALTZ NO. 19", and "MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND" Performed by FREDERICK FENNELL and THE EASTMAN WIND ENSEMBLE Courtesy of PolyGram Special Products A Division of PolyGram Records, Inc. "DIXIE" Performed by BOBBY HORTON "THE

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