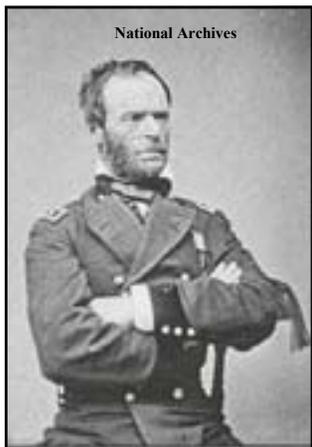


Teaching Guide

SEGMENT 8, WEBISODE 6

Please note: Each segment in this Webisode has its own Teaching Guide



General William Sherman



Segment
Overview



Let's Discuss

In the spring of 1864, President Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant as head of all Union forces: 533,000 men. Grant's campaign to capture Petersburg and Richmond, and General William Tecumseh Sherman's capture of Atlanta revived Northern hopes for an end to the war.

Grant pushed south, fighting Lee at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and finally, Petersburg. Grant suffered enormous losses. In the thirty days since he first clashed with Lee at the Wilderness, Grant lost 50,000 men, half as many as the Union army had lost in three previous years of war. However, with dogged determination, Grant ultimately triumphed; he took Petersburg and finally Richmond. What remained of Lee's army withdrew to Appomattox County.

General William Tecumseh Sherman besieged Atlanta for a month and finally won the city. In his march through Georgia to Savannah, Sherman's soldiers were cut off from supplies; they foraged for food, living off the land. His army cut a forty-mile-wide swath over four hundred miles long, causing \$100 million worth of damage. In late December, Sherman telegraphed Lincoln: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah..." He turned north and marched to Columbia, the state capital of South Carolina, where retreating Confederates set bales of cotton afire, leaving part of the city in ruins.

On April 9, 1865, Lee met with Grant to surrender the Army of Northern Virginia. The generous terms of the surrender and Lee's advice to his men to return home and be good citizens did much to begin the nation's healing process.

Teacher Directions

1. Ask the students.

How would you expect Grant to feel when the general he had been fighting for over a year finally surrendered?

2. Write the following quotation on the chalkboard, chart paper, or a transparency.

I felt sad at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and so valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe one of the worst for which a people ever fought.

Let's Discuss, Cont.

3. Tell the students General Ulysses S. Grant wrote these words describing his feelings when he met with General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox to write the terms of surrender.
4. Students, in their small groups, discuss the following questions.
 - How does Grant describe his feelings?
 - What reasons does he give for his feelings?
 - What cause does Grant think was “one of the worst for which a people ever fought”? Do you agree or disagree with him on this point? Explain your opinion.
5. Teams share their responses in a class discussion.

Teacher Directions

1. Distribute the Student Sheets: *The Yankees are Coming!*
2. Tell the students that Sherman’s march through Georgia and South Carolina spread terror across the South. Southern women, who often had to defend their homes in the absence of male relatives, lived in fear of the invading Yankees. Wild rumors as well as factual accounts of devastation at the hands of the Yankees spread like wildfire. Many women kept diaries of their experiences. The following excerpts are from the diary of Dolly Sumner Lunt (Mrs. Thomas Burge), a widow who kept a plantation in Georgia.
3. The students record a few key words and ideas on a web as they listen to the account. This will facilitate discussion after the reading.
4. Read the diary excerpts to the students.
5. In their small learning teams, students briefly discuss some of the key words and ideas from their webs. Each team shares its impression of Mrs. Burge’s journal.
6. Point out that this is a Southern woman’s diary. How might a Northern observer record these events?

Teacher Directions

1. Students write to the following prompt.

Imagine that you live Richmond in spring 1865. How do you feel when your city falls to the Yankees? What do you see, smell, hear, touch? Write a letter to a cousin who lives at some distance describing the incident.



History Sleuth



What do you
Think?



Moving Toward
Freedom

Teacher Directions

Activity One

1. Share the following information with students.

Grant wanted the horrible war to end in a good peace. He believed that the whole point of the war was to prove that Northerners and Southerners were and always would be fellow citizens. With the news of Lee's decision to surrender, Grant wanted everyone to begin behaving that way immediately. He told Lee to have his men lay down their arms and go home. The terms of surrender included a binding pledge that if the Confederate soldiers signed and honored the formal articles of parole, the Federal authorities would not disturb them.

Grant's lenient terms had far-reaching importance, because many men in the North wanted to see leading Confederates hanged. The surrender terms made hanging Lee impossible, and if Lee could not be hanged, all lesser Confederates were protected.

Lee urged his men to return home and be good citizens. He rejected one officer's suggestion to fight a guerrilla war. His decision to surrender spared the country the horror of continued warfare. Grant's decision to offer generous terms made the Confederates fellow countrymen again rather than outlaws. Between them, these rival soldiers moved the country toward freedom on April 9, 1865.

2. If students have access to the Internet, direct them to the Surrender at Appomattox web site @ <http://www.ibiscom.com/appomatox.htm> to read an account of the event.
3. Distribute the Student Sheet: *Commemorative Postage Stamp*. Students complete the work sheet and design a commemorative stamp depicting some aspect of the surrender at Appomattox and how the participants moved the country toward freedom.

Activity Two

1. Distribute the Student Sheet: *Who Wrote Down the Terms of Surrender?*
Ely Parker: Seneca Chief
2. Students, in their small teams, read the information about Ely Parker and as a class discuss how Ely Parker moved the nation toward freedom.



Connections

Teacher Directions

Use the following activities with your students.

Science/Library — The battle of the Wilderness took place in an area of Virginia known for pine forests. How long would it take to replace a pine forest destroyed by fire? Compare this to the length of time it takes to grow a deciduous forest with oaks, maples, and other trees. Discuss the positive and negative impacts of fire on a coniferous forest.

Language Arts — Students imagine they have a summer job as a tour guide at Appomattox telling visitors what happened there, and how it set the stage for Reconstruction. Students write the short speech they will give.

The Yankees Are Coming!

The author of this journal, Dolly Sumner Lunt Burge, grew up in Maine and moved to Georgia as a young woman. She met and married Thomas Burge, who owned a plantation near Covington, Georgia. When Mr. Burge died, Mrs. Burge was left on the plantation with her little daughter Sarah (Sadai) and about one hundred slaves. Less than three years later, the Civil War broke out.

January 1, 1864

A new year is ushered in, but peace comes not with it. Scarcely a family but has given some of its members to the bloody war that is still decimating our nation. Oh, that its ravages may soon be stopped! Will another year find us among carnage and bloodshed?...The prices of everything are very high. Corn seven dollars a bushel,...salt, sixty dollars a hundred....

July 22, 1864 (the day of the battle of Atlanta)

We have heard the loud booming of cannon all day....Suddenly I saw the servants running...and I walked to the door, when I saw such a stampede as I never witnessed before. The road was full of carriages, wagons, men on horseback, all riding at full speed. Judge Floyd stopped, saying: "Mrs. Burge, the Yankees are coming. They have got my family, and here is all I have upon earth. Hide your mules and carriages and whatever valuables you have."



Sadai (Mrs. Burge's nine-year-old daughter) said: "Oh, Mama, what shall we do?"

"Never mind, Sadai," I said. "They won't hurt you, and you must help me hide my things."

I went to the smoke-house, divided out the meat to the servants, and bid them hide it. In the meantime Sadai was taking...our clothes, which she was giving to the servants to hide in their cabins... china and silver were buried underground....(Sadai) came to me with a part of a loaf of bread, asking if she had not better put it in her pocket, that we might have something to eat that night. And verily, we had cause to fear that we might be homeless, for on every side we could see smoke arising from burning buildings and bridges....I shall sleep none tonight. The woods are full of refugees.

July 23, 1864

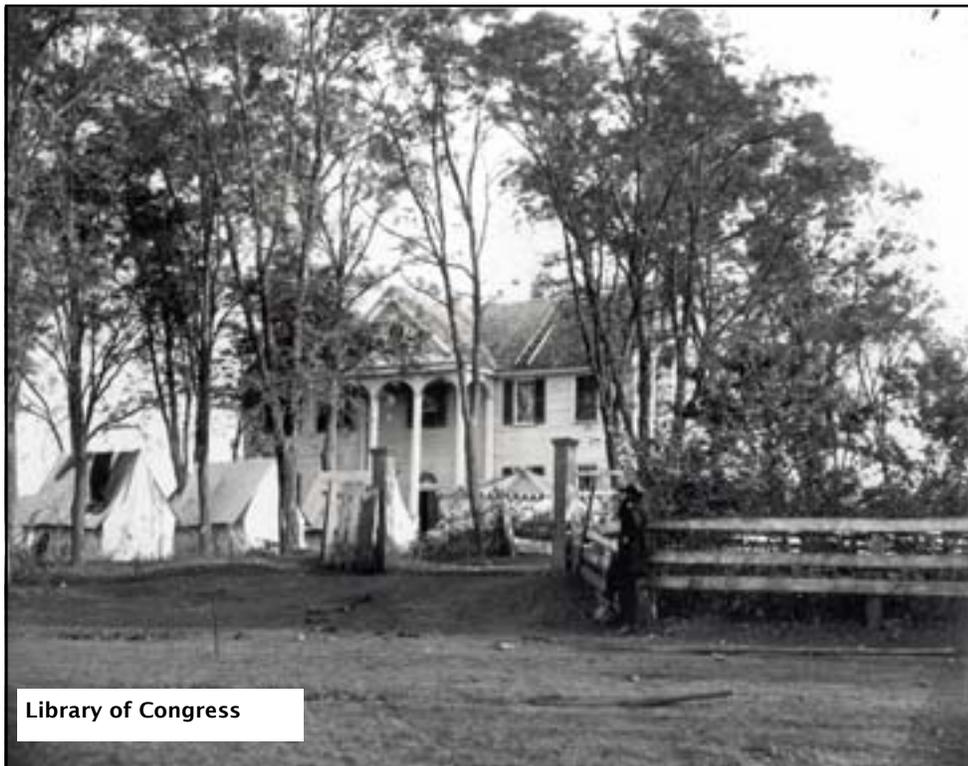
Have seen nothing of the raiders, though this morning they burned the buildings around the depot (in a nearby town)...

Sunday, July 24, 1864

No church. Our preacher's horse was stolen by the Yankees....

July 28, 1864

We were just rising from breakfast when Ben Glass rode up with the cry: "The Yankees are coming. Mrs. Burge, hide your mules!" (The Yankees did not come that day.)



Library of Congress

July 29, 1864

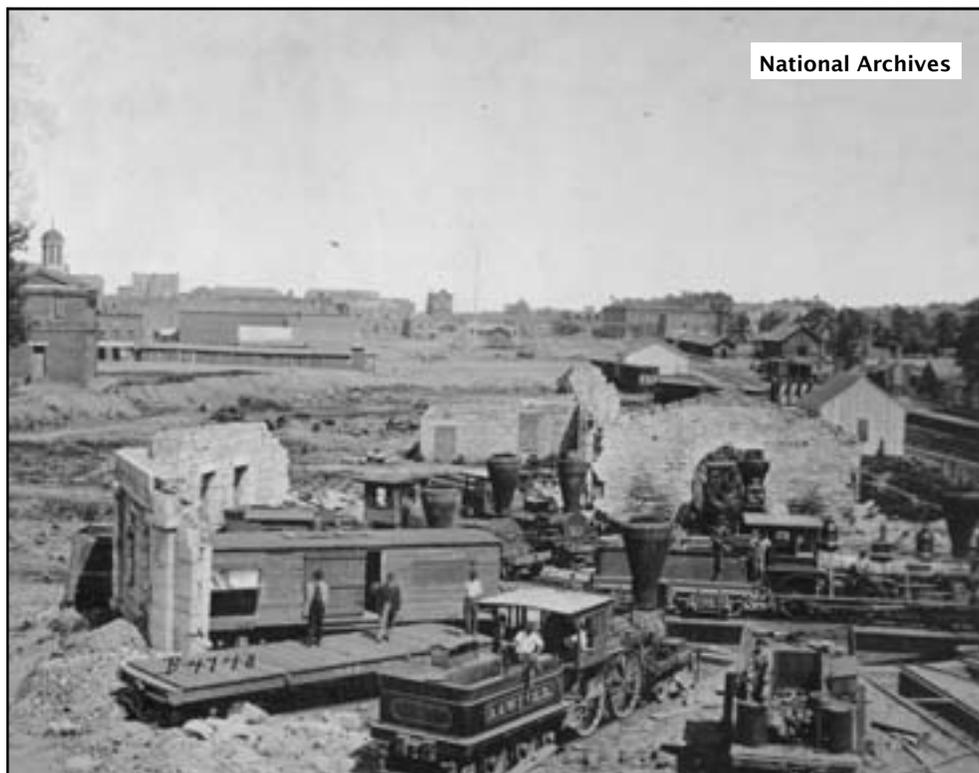
Sleepless nights. The report is that the Yankees have left Covington.... They robbed every house on the road of its provisions, sometimes taking every piece of meat, blankets and wearing apparel, silver and arms of every description. They would take silk dresses and put them under their saddles, and many other things for which they had no use. Is this the way to make us love them and their Union?....Our mills, too, they have burned, destroying an immense amount of property.

August 2, 1864

Just as I got out of bed this morning Aunt Julia (a slave) called me to look down the road and see the soldiers. I peeped through the blinds, and there they were, sure enough, the Yankees—the blue coats!

I was not dressed. The servant women came running in. "Mistress, they are coming! They are coming! They are riding into the lot! They are coming up the steps!"

I bade Rachel (a slave) to fasten my room door and go to the front door and ask them what they wanted. They did not wait for that, but came in and asked why my door was fastened. She told them that the white folks were not up. They said they wanted breakfast, and that quick, too... (The soldiers left after breakfast, taking three of her best mules, but doing no further injury.)



November 8, 1864

To-day will probably decide the fate of the Confederacy. If Lincoln is reelected I think our fate is a hard one, but we are in the hands of a merciful God, and if He sees that we are in the wrong, I trust that he will show it to us. I have never felt that slavery was altogether right, for it is abused by men, and I have often heard Mr. Burge say that if he could see that it was sinful for him to own slaves, if he felt that it was wrong, he would take them where he could free them...The purest and holiest men have owned them, and I can see nothing in the scriptures which forbids it. I have never bought or sold slaves and I have tried to make life easy and pleasant to those that have been bequeathed me by the dead. I have never ceased to work. Many a Northern housekeeper has a much easier time than a Southern matron with her hundred Negroes.

November 16, 1864

As I could not obtain in Covington what I went for.... (she went to another town) ...how dreary looks the town! Where formerly all was bustle and business, now naked chimneys and bare walls, for the depot and surrounds were all burned by last summer's raiders....Paid seven dollars a pound for coffee...five dollars for ten cents' worth of flax thread, six dollars for pins, and forty dollars for a bunch of factory thread...



Library of Congress

On our way home we met Brother Evans...who inquired if we had heard that the Yankees were coming...and that it was reported that the Yankees were on their way to Savannah....

November 17, 1864

Have been uneasy all day. At night some of the neighbors who had been to town called. They said it was a large force moving very slowly. What shall I do? Where go?

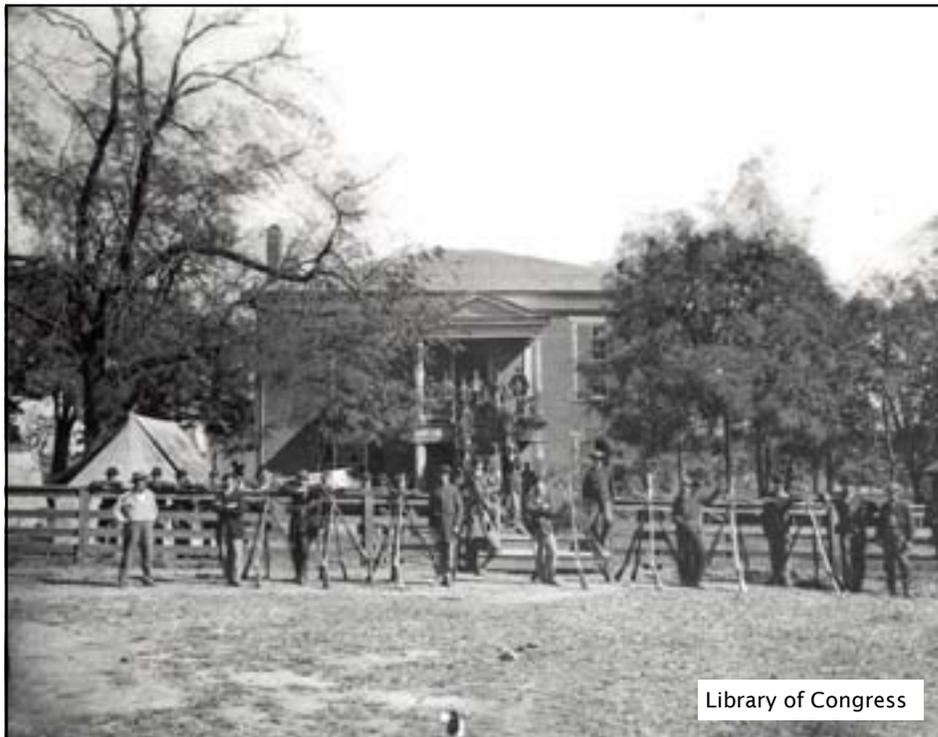
November 18, 1864

Slept very little last night. Went out doors several times and could see large fires like burning buildings. Am I not in the hands of a merciful God who has promised to take care of the widow and orphan? (She sends off two of her mules, hides some of her provisions in the slave gardens, and hides the wagon.) I fear that we shall be homeless.

November 19, 1864

Slept in my clothes last night, as I heard that the Yankees went to neighbor Montgomery's on Thursday night at one o'clock, searched his house, drank his wine, and took his money and valuables...

...I saw some blue-coats coming down the hill....I walked to the gate. There they came filing up. I hastened back to my frightened servants and told them that they had better hide...Like demons (the Yankees) rush in! My yards are full. To my smoke-house, my dairy, pantry, kitchen, cellar, like famished wolves they come, breaking locks and whatever is in their way.



Library of Congress

The thousand pounds of meat in my smoke-house is gone in a twinkling, my flour, my meat, my lard, butter, eggs, pickles... all are gone. My eighteen fat turkeys, my hens, chickens, fowls, young pigs, are shot down in my yard... Utterly powerless I ran out and appealed to the guard.

"I cannot help you, Madam; it is orders."

(The Yankees take her horses, colts, and mules.) There they go! There go my mules, my sheep, and, worse than all, my boys (slaves)!

Alas! little did I think while trying to save my house from plunder and fire that they were forcing my boys from home at the point of the bayonet. One, Newton, jumped into bed in his cabin, and declared himself sick. Another crawled under the floor,—a lame boy he was,—but they pulled him out, placed him on a horse, and drove him off... Jack came crying to me, the big tears coursing down his cheeks, saying they were making him go...(they) threatened to shoot him if he did not go; so poor Jack had to yield...(the soldiers were) cursing them and saying that "Jeff Davis wanted to put them in his army, (but) that they should not fight for him, but for the Union."... My poor boys! My poor boys! What unknown trials are before you!... Their parents are with me, and how sadly they lament the loss of their boys. Their cabins are rifled of every valuable....

...I saw nothing before me but starvation.... (a Union captain) comforted me with the assurance that my dwelling-house would not be burned, though my out-buildings might. Poor little Sadai went crying to him as to a friend and told him that they had taken her doll, Nancy... (the doll was found later in the yard of a neighbor, where a soldier had thrown it, and was returned to the little girl. Her children and grandchildren later played with it.)

Sherman himself and a greater portion of his army passed my house that day. All day...they were passing not only in front of my house, but from behind; they tore down my garden palings, made a road through my back-yard and lot field, driving their stock and riding through, tearing down my fences and desolating my home—wantonly doing it when there was no necessity for it... (that night) the heavens...were lit up with flames from burning buildings. Dinnerless and supperless as we were, it was nothing in comparison with the fear of being driven out homeless to the dreary woods. Nothing to eat! (that night) I could not close my eyes, but kept walking to and fro, watching the fires in the distance and dreading the approaching day, which, I feared, as they had not all passed, would be but a continuation of horrors.

November 22, 1864

...Major Lee (a neighbor) came down... and while he was here the alarm was given that more Yankees were coming. I was terribly alarmed and packed my trunks with clothing, feeling assured that we should be burned out now. Major Lee swore that he would shoot, which frightened me, for he was intoxicated enough to make him ambitious. He rode off... Soon

after, however, he returned, saying it was a false alarm...Oh dear! Are we to be always living in fear and dread! Oh the horrors, the horrors of war!

April 29, 1865

...the state of our country is very gloomy. General Lee has surrendered to the victorious Grant. Well, if it will only hasten the conclusion of this war, I am satisfied.

...At the beginning of the struggle the minds of men, their wills, their self-control, seemed to be all taken from them in a passionate antagonism to the coming-in President, Abraham Lincoln. Our leaders...led us into this, perhaps the greatest error of the age....For years it has been stirring in the hearts of Southern politicians that the North was enriched and built up by Southern labor and wealth. Men's pockets were always appealed to....They did not believe that the North would fight. Said Robert Toombes (a Southern leader): "I will drink every drop of blood they will shed." Oh, blinded men! Rivers deep and strong have been shed, and where are we now? —a ruined, subjugated people!

This diary is the property of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill