

# VIRGINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR COMMISSION



## *Virginia in the Civil War: A Sesquicentennial Remembrance* DVD Outline

This high-definition DVD is designed for teacher use in the classroom as supplemental instructional material in grades 4-12. To fit into a typical teaching block, the 3-hour running time of the program is divided into nine 20-minute modules that focus on the background of the Civil War, military campaigns, the African-American experience, leading Virginia personalities, the common soldiers, home front activities and legacies of the war for all Americans. Modules are listed below, and a content overview of each follows.

Module 1: The Coming Storm

Module 2: First Blood

Module 3: The Common Soldier

Module 4: Caught in the Conflict: The Home Front

Module 5: The War Goes North

Module 6: Behind the Lines

Module 7: Virginians at War

Module 8: The Overland Campaign: Lee Faces Grant

Module 9: The Legacies of War

### **Introduction:**

- Virginia is the mother state to the nation, starting in 1607 with the settlement at Jamestown.
  - Virginia continued to develop due to immigration, movement westward, and cultivation of land and livestock.
  - Many of the Founding Fathers had roots in Virginia: Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, and John Marshall.
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### **Module 1: The Coming Storm**

- Virginia experienced 40 years of uninterrupted progress in the areas of railroads, canals, and agriculture before the start of the Civil War.
- Richmond was at the center of the industrial South, with iron works production as one of the chief industries.
- The issue of slavery, however, loomed overhead. With the invention of the cotton gin, slavery increased in the South. Southern states increasingly believed they could not survive without slavery, while the North believed the country would be better off without slavery.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Defending a Way of Life**

- Slaveholders defended slavery noting that it had existed in virtually every civilization through history, and citing the many biblical references to slavery. Other defenders of slavery argued that blacks were an inferior race who should be treated as children, and that eradicating slavery would cause economic disaster.
- Nat Turner's Rebellion, the bloodiest slave revolt in American history, further fueled the issue of slavery.
- The Civil War was different than other wars since both sides were from the same country and shared a common past.
- The two major religious denominations, Baptists and Methodists, split into Northern and Southern wings over the issue of slavery, prompting Americans to question whether a good Christian could also be a slaveholder.

## **Sub-Chapter 2: Attempts at Compromise**

- The Mexican War brought new attention to slavery because the territory gained needed to be declared free or slave.
- Henry Clay authored the Compromise of 1850, which stated that California would enter the Union as a free state while the other territories acquired from Mexico would decide for themselves whether to permit slavery. To appease Southerners, Congress also imposed new demands on the capture and return of runaway slaves. But even with this compromise, the issue of slavery was not settled.
- In 1852, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published. It emphasized the disheartening effects of slavery on slave families and drastically affected public opinion in the North about the institution of slavery. Today, it is considered one of the most important works in American history.

## **Sub-Chapter 3: Popular Sovereignty**

- In 1854, a portion of the land received from France in the Louisiana Purchase was divided into the Kansas and Nebraska territories.
- Popular sovereignty would decide if these territories would be free or slave states when admitted to the Union. Northerners and Southerners rushed to Kansas to influence the outcome. Abolitionist John Brown murdered five pro-slavery Southerners about the same time pro-slavery forces nearly destroyed the city of Lawrence. The violence increased and by 1856 the territory had earned the nickname "Bleeding Kansas."
- By the early 1850s there were only two political parties in the country - the Whigs and the Democrats. The Whig Party disappeared, and the Democrats began to dissolve as the issue of slavery split politicians along regional and philosophical lines. It is from this changing political landscape that the Republican Party first emerged.
- In March 1857, the United States Supreme Court's *Dred Scott* decision further fueled the issue of slavery by ruling that slaves were not citizens, but private property. This decision effectively rendered the Missouri Compromise, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Compromise of 1850 unconstitutional.

## **Sub-Chapter 4: The Spark**

- John Brown's raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in October 1859 helped ignite the war.
- Brown was convinced that the ending of slavery could only come through the shedding of blood. Brown hoped to rally slaves in the region but his plan was ill conceived and carried out in chaos. John Brown and his men killed four innocent townspeople, including a free black man, Heywood Shepherd.
- United States Marines led by Robert E. Lee captured Brown as he took refuge in a firehouse at Harpers Ferry.
- Brown was tried in court, found guilty, and hung on December 2, 1859.
- In the North, Brown was viewed as a hero and martyr to the cause of anti-slavery, while the South saw Brown as a terrorist and worried about another slave rebellion like Nat Turner's.
- Fearing another slave rebellion, militia units were formed in many communities across the South.

## **Sub-Chapter 5: Election of 1860**

- As the 1860 presidential election approached, Democrats could not agree on a platform and divided into three factions. As a result of this division, Republican Abraham Lincoln won the election with only 40% of the popular vote and despite not even being on the ballot in several Southern states.
- On December 18, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union, with six other states following shortly thereafter.
- In Montgomery, Alabama, the Confederate States of America was established, with Jefferson Davis as president and Alexander Stephens as vice president. Two months later, the capital was moved to Richmond.
- President Lincoln and his administration did not support the right of any state to leave the Union, and he refused to abandon the federal forts in the rebelling states.
- One of these was the federal garrison at Ft. Sumter in South Carolina. On April 12, 1861, Confederate cannon began firing at the fort; 34 hours later the garrison surrendered. It was an act of war that Lincoln could not let go unchallenged.
- Lincoln responded by issuing a call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion. With the states of the deep South joining the Confederacy and Northern states remaining loyal to the Union, the border states were caught in the middle and forced to choose between the two.

## **Sub-Chapter 6: Virginia Decides**

- Virginia initially did not want to join the Confederacy, but was opposed to Lincoln's plan to use military force to compel the Southern states to remain in the Union.
  - On April 17, 1861, Virginia cut its ties with the Union.
  - As a center of industry, manufacturing and agriculture, Virginia's membership in the Confederacy was crucial to the South's chances of success.
  - The war aims of the two sides were simple: the Confederacy fought for independence and the North fought to preserve the union. No compromise was possible.
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## **Module 2: First Blood**

- The South thought its sheer size gave it an advantage and that the war could be won either on the battlefield or by outlasting the North's will to continue the fight.
- Regardless of whether the war was decided by offensive or defensive means, the outcome of war would be decided in Virginia -- the main home of tobacco, flour mills, textiles, manufacturing, and iron works.
- Geologically, there were three different Virginias - the Tidewater, the Piedmont, and the more mountainous Blue Ridge - each of which affected the movement of troops in different ways as they traveled across the state.
- One-third of the South's railroads were in Virginia and the Civil War became the first war in which railroads played a substantial role.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Preparing For War**

- Governor John Letcher initially appointed Robert E. Lee to command Virginia's military forces.
- Lee organized the militia, ordered supplies, and called for arms while the Union tried to organize its volunteers into an army.
- Both sides believed one decisive battle would bring victory and an end to the war.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: First Battle of Manassas**

- Both the Union and Confederate armies were unprepared and inexperienced for battle.
- The first major battle of the war occurred in July when the two sides fought for control of an intersection of two railroads at Manassas Junction, located 25 miles outside Washington.
- The battle raged all day long, first favoring the North, then the South. With the outcome decided in favor of the South, retreating Union soldiers and civilians who had come to watch the battle melded together on the roads leading back to Washington, causing additional chaos and confusion.
- It was here at Manassas Junction that General Thomas Jackson earned the name "Stonewall" and became a national hero.
- In the aftermath of the defeat, President Lincoln named George B. McClellan as the top Union general and directed him to create a new, stronger military force.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: A Clash of Iron**

- As the war began, the North had better ships and the ability to produce more. The Confederates could not match the North's industrial might, so Confederate Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory wanted to build a great ironclad ship that could defeat the larger and more numerous Northern vessels.
- The South took the hull of USS Merrimack and from it constructed the ironclad CSS Virginia.
- In March 1862, the CSS Virginia bolstered Southern morale by defeating two Union ships in Hampton Roads.
- The next day, the CSS Virginia fought the USS Monitor, another ironclad, to a draw.
- The day of ironclad warfare had finally arrived.

#### **Sub-Chapter 4: The Peninsula Campaign**

- In April 1862, General McClellan took the offensive. McClellan did not want to confront Confederate troops head-on so he took his men down the Potomac River and through the Chesapeake Bay to the peninsula between the James and York Rivers. His aim was to advance on Richmond from the southeast.

#### **Sub-Chapter 5: Jackson in the Shenandoah**

- Due to Jackson's military success in the Shenandoah Valley, President Lincoln had to change his original war strategy by withdrawing some of McClellan's forces from the Peninsula to defend Washington.
- The Union offensive was further reduced due to weather and General McClellan's lack of speed. Jackson had successfully turned the war around in Virginia
- At the Battle of Seven Pines, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston stopped McClellan, with the capital of Richmond only nine miles away.

#### **Sub-Chapter 6: Lee Takes Command**

- In the aftermath of Johnston's wounding at Seven Pines, Jefferson Davis named Robert E. Lee commander of the Confederate army.
- Lee made plans for a counterattack and directed Jeb Stuart and his cavalymen find the location of General McClellan's flank.
- Through a combined series of actions with Jackson in the Seven Days' Battles, Lee's Confederates attacked McClellan's flank and cut off his supplies.
- By doing this, General Lee saved the capital of the Confederacy.

#### **Sub-Chapter 7: Return to Manassas**

- Following his failure to take Richmond, McClellan was replaced as commander of the Union armies by General John Pope.
- Pope's army started south in August, intending to strike Richmond by seizing the rail line at Gordonsville.
- General Lee split his force, with Longstreet and Jackson in command of the respective wings. First, Jackson's forces defeated Pope at Cedar Mountain.
- Then at Manassas Junction, Jackson succeeded in cutting off Pope's supply base, severely weakening the Union forces.
- Consolidating Jackson's forces with Longstreet's, Lee led the Confederates to victory at the Second Battle of Manassas.

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### **Module 3: The Common Soldier**

- Young Virginians joined the army for a variety of reasons, including patriotism, a sense of duty, a chance to win glory, make new friends or visit new places – inspired by newspapers and orators. Those who did not join risked being called cowards.
- Northerners fought to preserve the Union while Southerners fought to preserve their way of life, but both believed they were fighting for freedom and democracy.
- The average Virginia soldier was a farm boy, a Protestant, native born, single and was fighting for the sake of his state, not his country.
- Companies of 100 men were formed locally, which enabled friends, neighbors and relatives to serve together. Ten companies would together form a regiment of 1,000 men. These were also organized by region, so, for example the 10 companies of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry all came from Southwest Virginia.

#### **Sub-Chapter 1: In Service to the Cause**

- The issue of black military service was hotly debated in the country. It was discussed seriously in the South and supported by General Lee, though no significant participation in combat ever resulted.
- Since over 1 million white men were serving in the Confederate army, Southern society was heavily dependent on black laborers to fill the void.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: Johnny Rebs and Billy Yanks**

- Early in the Civil War, soldiers adopted nicknames for one another. The term “Yankee” had existed since colonial time and Union soldiers became known simply as “Yank” or “Yankee.” Since the South was considered to be in rebellion, Southern soldiers were often referred to as “rebels” or simply as “Reb.”
- Soldiers on both sides thought their war experience would be brief and end in triumph. They quickly found out that their principle enemies were not on the battlefield, but instead were sickness, mud, heat, cold, hunger and loneliness.
- Most soldiers served in the infantry. Only 20% joined the cavalry and just 5% served in the artillery.
- Living in an army camp with a thousand other men was a new experience for most men as it was the first time many had been away from home. Life in army camp was monotonous and the days long. The day would begin at 5 a.m. and often run until 9 p.m. with breakfast and dinner serving as the two main meals. Most of a soldier's time was spent learning basic soldier skills such as marching, handling equipment, building a fire, cooking their own food, and building earthworks. Among the most difficult of skills was the nine-step process for loading a rifle.
- On the march, soldiers were expected to travel 10-30 miles per day and march at a rate of 2 ½ miles per hour.
- The encampments were often unsanitary, as the grounds were reused and contaminated by different regiments over and over again.
- The early excitement of war faded quickly for most soldiers as they began to understand the true realities of war.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: The Soldiers' Life**

- There were no televisions, radios or iPods. The only mode of communication for a soldier was through letters.
- Music helped the soldiers as well, serving as a diversion, inspiration, and reminder of home. Songs like “Dixie” and “When Johnny Comes Marching Home” were popular.
- On average, soldiers spent 49 of every 50 days in camp. Most soldiers' days in camp were spent complaining about officers, drills, and especially food.
- Soldiers also suffered from exposure to diseases such as measles. Clean water was in short supply and wounds would become infected because they could not be cleaned properly. Two-thirds of the soldiers died from sickness; only one-third died fighting in battle.
- New developments in medical care emerged. The use of ambulances emerged to help get wounded soldiers off the battlefield and to medical care quickly. The largest hospital in Washington DC at the time of First Manassas held only 40 patients, but by war's end, hospitals on both sides frequently cared for hundreds of soldiers at a time. The modern hospital system is really a product of the Civil War.

### **Sub-Chapter 4: Faith and Courage**

- Soldiers needed more than just courage to endure the hardships of war. Many soldiers carried small bibles.
- God provided hope and a sense of safety. Both Northern and Southern soldiers thought God was on their side.
- Soldiers feared death, but also feared losing their courage in front of their comrades.
- Great heights of courage were exhibited during the war: wounded men still fighting, privates taking over when an officer fell, and soldiers running into a storm of bullets.

### **Sub-Chapter 5: The Soldiers' Bonds**

- More than 700,000 men died during the war. In modern terms this would equate to 6 million people.
  - As the veterans of the Civil War grew older, they realized the significance of what they had experienced and bonded together.
  - Neither side, Union or Confederate, apologized for what they had done, but the veterans of this war still shared a common bond.
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## **Module 4: Caught in the Conflict: The Home Front**

- At the time the Civil War began, Virginia was well established as a prosperous agricultural state, with millions of dollars invested in livestock, crops, and land. Tobacco was the state's chief cash crop.
- During the war, the General Assembly asked Virginians to plant corn instead of tobacco in order to feed the soldiers. Some people complied but in other areas farmers ignored the General Assembly and planted tobacco anyway.
- Farms in Virginia during the war lacked labor, as most of the men had gone off with the army. Many farms struggled as women and children could not complete all the work on their own.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Free to Work**

- A large free black population lived in Virginia, more than every other state except Maryland.
- Urban areas had a higher percentage of free blacks than rural areas due to employment and social opportunities.
- Although free from the bonds of slavery, free blacks still faced economic, cultural and social discrimination. Many Southerners did not trust free blacks and feared they were spies for the North.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: Virginia's Industrial Might**

- Virginia was the heart of industry and manufacturing in the South. Richmond and Fredericksburg represented the industrial heart of the state.
- Many factories used slave laborers.
- The state's advanced transportation network helped ensure the goods produced in Virginia's factories reach Confederate troops. The James River Canal, which ran from Richmond to Lynchburg; the Valley Turnpike (the state's only hard paved road); and state's railroads all played an important role.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: Surviving the Struggle**

- Virginia's economy depended on manufacturing and state's transportation network. Virginians faced increasing shortages of goods as soldiers took everything that was available for wartime purposes.
- Inflation rates soared as high as 6000%. Moreover, a 65% drop in household buying power meant Virginians could no longer afford those goods that did make it to the stores.
- However, even with the war, literacy rates still soared and the people of Virginia had time for entertainment such as books and plays.

### **Sub-Chapter 4: Staying Informed**

- Virginians were among the best-read citizens in the country.
- Newspaper offices printed other sources besides newspapers - such as books, pamphlets, and music - and many addressed the subject of war.
- Education struggled in the South but went on, with new books on spelling and grammar containing references to the Confederacy.
- There were almost 1,000 newspapers in the South when the war began and four daily newspapers in Richmond alone. The Richmond papers in particular were deemed more important than other Southern newspapers since Richmond was the capital.
- Telegraphs also served to convey news to people. Because the telegraph lines could get close to the front, they became a fast and convenient way of communicating news of the war.
- However, newspapers and telegraphs faced obstacles and a shortage of supplies, and by 1865, most communication had been shut down.

### **Sub-Chapter 5: The Politics of War**

- The war took a toll on government and politics. Only men had the right to vote and many men rushed to enlist, so Virginia did not have enough men to run for political office.
- Virginia state government was a target for the Union army. The capitol itself was frequently within earshot of the fighting in 1862.

- Ironically, Virginia left the Union in part because of its opposition to a strong, centralized national government, yet by 1865, state government had become the most centralized in the state's history.

### **Sub-Chapter 6: The Devastated Old Dominion**

- By 1865, Virginia's fields, crops, livestock, railroads, banks, newspaper offices, and factories had been ruined or were in Northern hands.
  - Each Virginia county became the object of Union raids. One raid in Loudoun County in 1862 resulted in the burning of 1,200 barns, the destruction of 10,000 head of livestock and 80 mills.
  - Everything was empty - fields, streets, and houses - as more than 700,000 men who had gone off to war would never return home.
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## **Module 5: The War Goes North**

- General Lee took a calculated risk by invading the North with a tired, small army, but the North had supplies his army desperately needed. In addition, the invasion could bring Maryland into the Confederacy, turning Washington into a virtual island surrounded by Confederate states -- a situation that might compel the North to ask for peace. A victory on Northern soil might also bring the South help from England, further strengthening the Confederacy's position.
- In September 1862, Lee crossed the Potomac. He was not welcomed in Maryland as he had hoped and the presence of a federal garrison at Harpers Ferry forced Lee to split his army into two divisions. Jackson's wing dispatched to Harpers Ferry, while Lee's main body continued north.
- A Union soldier discovered a copy of Lee's marching orders. This created a huge advantage for McClellan; if he moved quickly he could defeat Lee's army while it was divided.
- Despite all his advantages, McClellan still failed to achieve a decisive victory at the Battle of Antietam. Instead of massing his numerical superior forces in a single blow, McClellan launched three separate, uncoordinated attacks along Lee's lines, which enabled Lee to shift his smaller force and defeat each in turn. Wednesday, September 17, 1862, would be the bloodiest day in the war. More than 23,000 Americans were killed or wounded.
- At the end of the day, Lee's army had held, but McClellan had successfully thwarted Lee's incursion into Maryland. After the battle, Lee's army returned to Virginia.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Free At Last**

- On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Slaves in the Confederate states were officially free as of January 1, 1863.
- African-Americans could now join the Union Army. Of the roughly 180,000 African-American soldiers that served in the Union army, approximately 150,000 came from Southern states. There were nine African-American regiments from Virginia and of the 22 African-Americans who received the Medal of Honor during the war, eight came from Virginia.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: Bloody Fredericksburg**

- Lincoln replaced the hesitant General McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside.
- Burnside thought himself incapable of handling his new job, but he was well-liked in the army and approached the assignment with vigor.
- Burnside's strategy was to move the Army of the Potomac to Fredericksburg, cross the Rappahannock River and take advantage of the rail lines that ran between Fredericksburg and Richmond to mount his attack against Richmond. The success of his plan depended on speed, but Burnside ran into difficulties when he arrived in Fredericksburg without the pontoon boats necessary to cross the river.
- Because of this delay, Lee had time to re-establish his army in a solid defensive position. Despite the fact that the Confederates were entrenched in a strong position, Burnside pushed the attack. Thirteen times the Union troops assaulted the Confederate line, and 13 times they were repulsed. It was a bloody massacre for the Union Army, losing over 12,000 men.

- Both armies then went into winter quarters, where the soldiers lacked basic supplies such as blankets and coats. Conditions were so miserable that soldiers referred to the winter of 1862 as the Valley Forge of the Civil War.
- After the battle, President Lincoln appointed General Joseph “Fighting Joe” Hooker to replace Burnside.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: Chancellorsville: A Tragic Victory**

- Hooker’s 1863 offensive was designed well. He would use his cavalry to flank the Confederate army, one-third of the Union army would hold Lee at Fredericksburg, while the other two-thirds would move west, cross the Rappahannock and attack Lee. His plan started well, but then began to unravel.
- By dispatching his cavalry, Hooker lost his ability to know the location of Lee’s army. Although Hooker’s men crossed the Rappahannock as planned and travelled through the Wilderness without opposition, once he reached open ground, Jackson was there to surprise Hooker and his men.
- Hooker ordered his army back into the Wilderness and into a defensive position.
- On May 1, 1863, Lee, even though outnumbered 2-to-1, again split his forces. Retaining a portion of his army in front of Hooker, Lee dispatched Jackson’s corps on a bold march around the Union’s exposed right flank.
- On May 2, thousands of Confederates marched through the woods to surprise the Union army as soldiers were preparing their evening meal. Completely surprising and routing the Union troops, the Confederates drove them two miles by nightfall when darkness forced the pace of the attack to slow and allowed the Union army to recover.
- In the darkness, noise, and confusion of the attack, Jackson was accidentally shot by his own men.
- On May 3, Lee resumed his attack on the retreating Hooker, but then Union General John Sedgwick moved in toward Lee with his Union forces. Lee was forced to send a portion of his army to Salem Church and although he defeated Sedgwick, the opportunity to crush Hooker had been lost.
- Union forces retired across the Rappahannock River and Lee was able to reunite his army

### **Sub-Chapter 4: The Turning Point: Gettysburg**

- The momentum gained at Chancellorsville convinced Lee to go north again. Lee knew he was outnumbered and that another venture into the North was risky, but he decided to try to advance regardless, convinced the North would ask for peace if there were a Confederate victory on Union soil and also in need of the supplies he could find there.
- The soldiers followed Lee to Pennsylvania with great confidence in their leader.
- The Union army, now led by General George Gordon Meade, trailed the Confederate troops as they headed north.
- On the outskirts of Gettysburg, an important road junction, Union cavalry battled with two Southern divisions. Soon the main bodies of both armies were converging on the tiny town.
- Lee and his army arrived at Gettysburg first and pushed the Union troops to a range of hills south of town.
- Over the next two days, Confederate forces launched numerous attacks and pounded Union lines, including the largest artillery duel of the entire war.
- On July 3, 1863, the battle climaxed with Lee sending two divisions under General George Pickett against the heart of the Union defense.
- Pickett and his men, some 14,000 soldiers, travelled across a quarter mile of open ground in the face of over 200 Union cannon. Pickett’s charge lasted less than an hour.
- The three days of fighting resulted in over 51,000 men killed, wounded, or captured. Lee’s ambulance train alone stretched for 12 miles.
- Lee then withdrew his beleaguered army back into Virginia. Gettysburg would be the last foray north of the Potomac for Lee’s army.

## **Module 6: Behind the Lines**

- The war brought about many changes and hardship to the daily lives of civilians.
- Most Virginians lived on farms: rich, poor, black, and white. The longer the war lasted, the harder the farm work became.
- The war put a large burden on those not fighting. In addition to feeding their families, farmers had to feed the military as well.
- The Union adopted a “Hard War” policy halfway through the war, which meant fighting against civilians through raids. Virginia suffered the most. Union troops would steal food and livestock, which meant less food for the Confederate army and a lower morale.
- Many Southern people fled their homes when the Union army advanced fearing the Northerners would be brutal conquerors. This put an extra strain on the areas where Southerners resettled.
- Virginians were now competing with each other. They had to deal with inflation and scarcity of basic necessities.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Innocence Lost**

- Adults possessed some knowledge as to why they had to endure these trials of war, but children did not understand why their lives had become so hard and painful.
- Father and brothers were gone, sickness spread throughout the population, and there was a lack of food, clothing and medicine.
- Education in wartime posed a serious challenge, since many teachers were men who had joined the army. Children had to try to learn at home while they performed their chores.
- Before the Civil War, Virginia had a respected higher education system, but the war placed great strain on colleges and universities. Students and faculty left to fight. The doors of most schools closed.
- The buildings of the Virginia Military Institute were destroyed in 1864, and Emory and Henry ceased to function as a college and was turned into a Union military hospital. Other schools suffered as well. By the end of the war, the University of Virginia and VMI were only schools in the entire Confederacy still open.
- After the war, the federal government helped to rebuild the educational system in Virginia.
- Since most men had gone to war, the role and responsibilities of females changed dramatically.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: Virginia Refugees**

- Thousands of women and children fled from the Union troops during the war, with many of them relocating in Richmond.
- Many women and children found employment in factories. Sixty percent of factory workers in Richmond were women and 25% were children between the ages of 10 and 15, often working for 17-20 cents per day.
- Hospitals also provided employment as women cleaned the buildings, and entertained and cared for the wounded. Government soon found that employing women in the hospitals actually reduced the number of men who died there.
- The number of refugees in Virginia continued to increase; without adequate housing, the refugees lived in their farm wagons or simply on the streets.
- Refugees created new problems; neighborhoods became overpopulated while some 200,000 refugees aimlessly wandered in the countryside.
- The war had now become part of everyone’s existence. Daily life brought anxiety and despair.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: Home Front Medicine**

- The home front did not have the same need for surgery as the battlefields, though the same medications were used on the home front.
- The home front suffered from smallpox, tuberculosis, and other contagious diseases that could become epidemics.
- The home front had a great demand for medical care, but most doctors were at the battlefield.

### **Sub-Chapter 4: Crime and Punishment**

- Law and order became a tremendous challenge for Virginia. Crime did not cease, but because law-enforcement officials were at war, they were unable to arrest criminals. In addition, there were not enough

people to serve on juries and in some places, courts simply shut down. Jail bars were sometimes melted down to make cannons.

- Certain soldiers in the Confederate army did not want to fight. Some were Unionists and did not support secession. Others had been drafted and compelled to serve against their will. Thousands deserted the army.
- These deserters would often escape to the mountains, and along with draft dodgers, Unionists, renegades, and outlaws, form their own communities in the wilderness.
- This created a second enemy for Virginia and the Confederacy.

### **Sub-Chapter 5: Yankee Occupation**

- Virginians in Northern Virginia, on the Peninsula, in Tidewater, and in the Shenandoah Valley lived under Union army occupation.
- Civilians and troops had to learn new laws and try to coexist peacefully.
- Clashes with civilians occurred, and some civilians relocated instead of facing Union troops.

### **Sub-Chapter 6: Praying for Peace**

- Faith was the biggest builder of morale in the army and at home.
  - People at home felt a spiritual closeness with those fighting in the war.
  - Old hymns took on new meanings, as many of their lyrics were now applied to war.
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## **Module 7: Virginians at War**

- History tells the story of human beings, no two of whom are alike. General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, shared many similarities; both men graduated from West Point and had served in the United States Army before the war but sided with their native state once Virginia joined the Confederacy. However, these two generals also had significant differences in background and personalities.
- Lee was an aristocrat, graduated second from his class at West Point, and had built an impressive military career during which he established himself as a hero in the Mexican War and helped to put down John Brown's rebellion. In 1861, he declined an offer to command Union forces.
- Jackson was 17 years younger than Lee, grew up as an orphan in the mountains of West Virginia, and struggled at West Point, but managed to graduate in the top third of his class. He established himself as a "soldier of promise" during the Mexican War in 1851, then resigned from the military to become a professor at the Virginia Military Institute. In 1861, Jackson rode to Richmond with some of his cadets and never looked back.
- Jackson fought in the First Battle of Manassas where he received the nickname "Stonewall." Then in the spring of 1862, he gained notoriety for his successful campaign in the Shenandoah Valley against three Union armies.
- Initially appointed to command Virginia's forces, Lee spent the first 13 months of the war behind a desk. On June 1, 1862, following the wounding of General Johnston at the Battle of Seven Pines, Lee received command of the Army of Northern Virginia, and three weeks later, Jackson joined him for the Seven Days' Battles. Though they would spend only 11 months fighting together, the two generals would become the hope of the Confederacy.
- Together, these two generals achieved many victories: Seven Days' Battle, Second Manassas, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. These victories came at a cost. At the confusion of battle at Chancellorsville, Jackson was accidentally shot by his own troops. His left arm was amputated and eventually Jackson died. Lee was never able to replace him.
- In 1865, Lee became president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, where he spent the remaining five years of his life. He was buried on campus grounds, only a short distance away from the cemetery where Jackson was buried.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: The Heroine and the Spy**

- Richmond's pre-war population contained two distinguished women who acted courageously and dangerously, though in different directions.

- Born in Gloucester County and raised in Richmond, Sally Tompkins was an unmarried, 27-year-old woman when the war began.
- After the First Battle of Manassas, she organized a successful military hospital for the wounded. After the crisis ended, the Confederate government declared that all civilian facilities had to be disbanded. Tompkins' hospital was so successful, however, that the Confederacy made an exception for her hospital. Tompkins was made a captain in the Confederate army - the only woman commissioned by the Confederate government as a military officer.
- The hospital operated for the next four years, serving more than 1,300 soldiers with only 73 deaths.
- In contrast, Elizabeth Van Lew was in her early forties when the war began. She was the daughter of a prominent merchant, had a great love for the Union, and hated slavery.
- Van Lew served food to prisoners at Libby Prison and began to bring out information from the prison in order to help the Union. Gradually her spy network expanded, eventually reaching the house of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.
- Known for her eccentric ways, Van Lew allowed people to think of her as crazy so that they would not think of her as a spy.
- After the war, President Grant stated that Van Lew was the best source of military intelligence coming out of Richmond that the Union possessed. He subsequently appointed Van Lew postmaster of Richmond in the post-war years.
- She remained unpopular in the city and her home was eventually confiscated and turned into a sanatorium.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: Soldiers in the Saddle**

- Virginia was always considered horse country, so it makes sense that some of the Confederacy's best cavalymen came from this state.
- James Ewell Brown Stuart, better known as "Jeb" Stuart, was one of the best. A graduate of West Point, he was only 28 years old when the war started, but in just three years he rose from Lieutenant to Lieutenant General, becoming Lee's premier cavalryman. Stuart was mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern in 1864.
- John S. Mosby, known as "the grey ghost of the Confederacy," was another prominent cavalry leader. Mosby led the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry, which had a reputation for guerilla warfare. Mosby's Rangers were famous for nighttime raids on Union troops.
- At the end of the war, three counties in Northern Virginia were known as Mosby's Confederacy, even though they were located behind Union lines.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: The Civil War Diarist**

- Mary Boykin Chesnut was born in South Carolina in 1823 to a U.S. Congressman, later to become governor. At 17, she married James Chesnut, Jr., who came from one of the wealthiest slave-owning families in the state.
- Mary Chesnut witnessed the formation of the first provisional government in Montgomery, the firing at Ft. Sumter in Charleston harbor, and was in Richmond when the dead and wounded from the First Battle of Manassas entered the city.
- For the next four years of her life, Mary Chesnut used her living room as a gathering place for the elite of the Confederacy, and recorded in her diary much of what she saw and heard during that time.
- After the war, Mary Chesnut and her husband returned to South Carolina, where she spent the rest of her life refining her diaries. Originally published as a *Diary from Dixie*, *Mary Chesnut's Civil War* is one of the best firsthand accounts of life in the Confederacy during the Civil War.

### **Sub-Chapter 4: Divided Loyalties**

- John Minor Botts and Edmund Ruffin are examples of the conflicting political extremes that divided Virginians during the war.
- A prominent Whig, Botts served in the General Assembly and in Congress before the war. A staunch abolitionist, Botts alienated people with his anti-secession views. Imprisoned for a time, he subsequently moved to Brandy Station, and it was on a portion of his farm that the Battle of Brandy Station took place. Soldiers stole his horses, slaughtered his cattle and confiscated his crops, leaving Botts penniless and destitute. Through it all, Botts remained a staunch Unionist.

- Edmund Ruffin was an agriculturist and an ardent secessionist. The war, however, ruined his plantation and cost him his fortune, causing Ruffin to become bitter and angry. On June 18, 1865, he wrote in his diary of his absolute hatred for Yankee rule before fatally shooting himself.
- Winfield Scott was born on a farm near Petersburg and served as a decorated soldier in the army for 50 years. The hero of the Mexican War, he served as General-in-Chief of the armies of the United States for 20 years. An imposing man standing 6' 5" and weighing over 300 lbs., Scott, by 1861, was an old man and physically out of shape. Although in no condition to command an army in the field, Scott authored "The Anaconda Plan," so named because it would have squeezed the life out of the Confederacy, like the great snake. Although initially ignored, in 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant utilized Scott's plan to bring the North to victory.
- George H. Thomas was another Virginian who remained loyal to the federal government. Born in Southampton County, Virginia, Thomas attended West Point and spent his pre-war years on the western frontier. Known as the "Rock of Chickamauga," Thomas fought with Grant in the western theater, eventually earning the reputation as one of the top generals in all of the Union army. For opting to stay loyal to the Union and not his home state of Virginia, his sisters disowned him, making him a "soldier without a home." When he died in 1870, he was buried in the hometown of his wife in the state of New York, as opposed to his former home in Virginia.

### **Sub-Chapter 5: Fighting in Virginia**

- Over 154,000 Virginians fought in the Civil War. Today cemeteries show the extent of lives lost and serve as a reminder that each of these men has a story to be told.
- Ted Barclay was born into a prominent Lexington family and joined the Liberty Hall Volunteers at age 17 with some his classmates from Washington College. Later, they would become part of the Stonewall Brigade. Barclay held no illusions about war and was willing to die if it was God's will. He saw action at Chancellorsville, earned a commission for his bravery in battle, was captured at Spotsylvania and spent 13 months in the military prison at Ft. Delaware. He survived the brutal hardships of prison, returned to Lexington and became a successful newspaper editor and business man.
- William J. "Willie" Pegram was born in Richmond to a prominent Episcopalian family and was a law student at the University of Virginia when the war began. At age 19, Pegram helped form the Purcell Artillery and quickly earned a reputation as a fearless and skilled artillerist. Known as the "boy artillerist" for his slight build and youthful appearance, Pegram was mortally wounded in 1865 at the Battle of Five Forks and like many other veterans, was buried at Hollywood Cemetery.

## **Module 8: The Overland Campaign: Lee Faces Grant**

- In the spring of 1864, President Lincoln ordered General Ulysses S. Grant east to Virginia.
- In May, Grant launched his offensive through the Wilderness, so named for the dense tangle of timber, undergrowth, and vines. With few roads or open areas it would be hard to use artillery here, and terrain would impair Lee's ability to maneuver, thus enabling Grant to take advantage of the North's superior numbers.
- Two days of intense fighting occurred, neither side able to gain a clear advantage. Eventually Grant and Lee would both withdraw.
- Unable to defeat the Confederate troops in the Wilderness, Grant tried to get around Lee's right flank, which would put Union soldiers between Lee and Richmond.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Spotsylvania: The Bloody Angle**

- The two sides resumed fighting at Spotsylvania, which differed from other battles in that the fighting lasted 14 days. Soldiers were not accustomed to fighting for such a long period.
- The nose of the Confederate defensive line was known as the "Bloody Angle." In Spotsylvania, on May 12, 1864, 2,500 Confederate and 6,000 Union soldiers fought for 20 hours straight in bloody hand-to-hand combat. At the end of the day, the Confederates fell back behind another series of earthworks and the battle continued at this new defensive line for nine more days.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: Defending the Valley**

- That same spring, Union troops conducted a raid up the Shenandoah Valley to destroy crops there before the harvest and to create a passage through the Blue Ridge Mountains to Richmond. The Valley was mostly undefended. The task of defending it fell to an odd collection of volunteers.
- VMI cadets marched 80 miles in the rain over four days to meet with more Confederate troops, under General John Breckenridge, a former Vice President of the United States, to face the Union troops led by General Franz Sigel. Ten cadets died in the fighting at the Battle of New Market but they succeeded in halting the Union advance in the Shenandoah Valley.
- Despite the defeat, Grant kept on pushing Union troops towards Richmond but made very little headway against Lee's Confederates.
- In June 1864, Grant's determination led him to push his troops into a bloody frontal assault against entrenched Confederates at Cold Harbor. The result was one of the war's bloodiest battles.
- Unable to defeat Lee, Grant resumed his attempts to maneuver around Lee's army. Union engineers constructed a 2,000-foot bridge across the James River in just eight hours, one of the greatest engineering feats in military history. Soon Grant's army was marching on to Petersburg.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: Trench Warfare: Petersburg Besieged**

- In crossing the James River, Grant had gained a measure of separation from Lee and was well on the road to Petersburg, which was considered the backdoor of Richmond. Although not defended by a large number of troops, the Petersburg defenses were strong enough to delay Grant just long enough for Lee to send reinforcements.
- Lee was obligated to protect Petersburg since it led to Richmond. Having just experienced the devastation at Cold Harbor, Grant knew better than to attack an entrenched enemy head-on. Instead, he attempted to move around Lee's flanks to isolate Petersburg by capturing each wagon road and railroad leading into the city.
- Although Grant had experience in siege operations from his campaign against Vicksburg in 1863, siege operations were new to most of the soldiers in Virginia. Siege warfare created new hardships - the soldiers had to stand behind rough earthworks at all times to protect themselves, the weather produced new difficulties, soldiers were on 24-hour constant duty, and they were always risking their lives. No break existed in siege warfare.
- Grant wanted to end the war without a long siege in 1864, so he decided to build tunnels underneath the Confederate line, putting gunpowder at the end of the tunnel and blowing up the Confederate's earthworks.
- Built by Pennsylvania coal miners, by July 30, 1864, the tunnel was complete. The explosion killed or wounded 287 Confederates and created a massive crater. Union troops entered the Confederate lines but the Confederates reacted quickly, counterattacked, and the Union troops gained no real success at the Battle of the Crater.

### **Sub-Chapter 4: The Valley in Flames**

- In the summer of 1864, Union troops again entered the Shenandoah Valley, arriving in Lexington on June 11. There, Union General David Hunter ordered his men to destroy VMI before leaving for Lynchburg.
- To counter this incursion, Lee sent General Jubal Early and his troops towards Maryland in the hope that by threatening Washington Grant would be forced to send some of his troops from Petersburg to defend the capital, just as McClellan had been forced to do in 1862 when Jackson threatened Washington.
- Early met little resistance on the march north, and once in Maryland, defeated a small army of Union men at Monocacy River; however, the day-long engagement created enough time for Grant's men to safely make it to Washington and establish their positions. Early then gave up his attempt to take the capital and withdrew to the Valley. This is the last time Confederate forces would threaten Washington.
- Early could not get back and rejoin Lee, as Union General Philip Sheridan continued to attack Early and his men, forcing them to retreat further and further southward. On October 19, Early turned and launched a surprise attack on Sheridan's men, but Sheridan personally led a Union counterattack that repulsed the Confederates and drove Early from the Valley. The Shenandoah Valley now officially belonged to Union forces.

### **Sub-Chapter 5: Breaking the Siege**

- The siege at Petersburg continued into 1865 as Grant slowly cut off Lee's supply and escape routes one at a time.
- Lee knew Grant was slowly isolating the Confederate army. When Grant began threatening the Confederate's last supply line, the Southside Railroad, Lee opted to attack rather than remain in a defensive posture. Initially successful in pressing the Union lines further back, Union troops counterattacked and restored their lines.
- On April 1, 1865, Grant ordered a final push on the railroad, attacking the Confederates at a junction known as Five Forks. Grant's success left Lee's army and the besieged cities of Richmond and Petersburg virtually surrounded.
- On April 2, Union soldiers finally broke Lee's defensive line at Petersburg.
- Lee sent Jefferson Davis a message stating that Petersburg and Richmond should be evacuated.

### **Sub-Chapter 6: Richmond Abandoned**

- With Grant's success, there was no longer any question of saving Richmond. Confederate President Jefferson Davis and the government would have to evacuate the capitol.
- Weeks before, plans were made to destroy the tobacco plants, arsenals, railroads, and bridges should the Union army advance to Richmond.
- By April 3, 1865, most Confederate soldiers had left Richmond. The Confederate engineers then began setting fire to the city, burning everything according to plan. The fire only destroyed one-tenth of Richmond, but it burned 90% of the all-important business district.

### **Sub-Chapter 7: Lee's Retreat**

- Lee knew he had to move fast either west to Lynchburg or south to South Carolina.
- Lee first moved his army to Amelia, then toward Farmville as he attempted to find rations for his army. This path led Lee and his men to Sailor's Creek, where they were attacked on three fronts by Union troops, costing Lee a quarter of his army - some 7,700 men - including eight generals.
- With the Union army on three sides, and the balance of Grant's army closing in from Richmond, Lee was trapped. His only hope of escape was to create a hole through Grant's line.
- Lee led one last attack with only 2,500 soldiers, but Union forces were too strong. Behind the initial cavalry waited nearly 25,000 Union troops. Lee and his men now had no hope for escape.

### **Sub-Chapter 8: Appomattox**

- On April 9, 1865 (Palm Sunday), General Lee and General Grant met at the McLean House at Appomattox Courthouse to discuss surrender of the Confederate army.
  - The terms of surrender were generous, as Lee's men were allowed to go home without any prosecution or retribution.
  - Grant made an announcement to his army that the Civil War was over and that "the Rebels are our countrymen again." Lee issued a farewell address to his men, commending them for their service.
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## **Module 9: The Legacies of War**

- The spring of 1865 showed Virginia to be a demolished state, filled with destroyed houses, roads, bridges, crops, and livestock. Most cities were left in flames or debris by the war; the Shenandoah Valley had been transformed into a wasteland, along with parts of Northern Virginia.
- Over 15,000 Virginians died in the Civil War and three times this number suffered injuries.
- 300,000 Virginia slaves were free, though they lacked homes and jobs.
- Lawlessness, the challenges of civil rights, and an uncertain future became problems for Virginia.
- The 1867 Congress directed a military occupation of the South. Military control replaced civil authority. So began five years of "Reconstruction," a period that led to little improvement in the overall condition of the state. Moreover, the issue of racial equality was left unsettled for years to come.

### **Sub-Chapter 1: Reuniting A Nation**

- Following the Civil War came the daunting task of reuniting the country. Robert E. Lee helped to rebuild Virginia, telling Southerners to forget their animosity and make their sons Americans. His example provided an inspiration for the South.
- The Civil War brought an end to slavery, and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation led to the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution. These promises, however, remained empty until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.
- Patriotism came to the forefront for the first time during the Civil War. Before this, no national anthem existed and people rarely displayed flags.

### **Sub-Chapter 2: An Era of Innovation**

- The Civil War resulted in many new inventions that are still common today.
- Linus Yale invented the Yale Tumbler Lock. Today using a key to unlock a door is commonplace, but before the Civil War it was unheard of.
- Ironclad warships exemplified another new use of technology; almost the entire hull of the ship rested underwater, a new feat for ships, and the USS Monitor had the world's first flushable toilet onboard a ship at sea.
- Supermarkets still contain food similar to that which Civil War soldiers ate: Van Camp's Pork and Beans, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce, and Underwood Deviled Ham. The use of canning became more prevalent as a way to prevent food from spoiling.
- Prior to 1861 all clothing came in one size. It was only when the Quartermaster General ordered that clothing be made in four sizes - small, medium, large and extra large - that pre-sized clothing became commonplace. Likewise, pairs of shoes for the first time were specifically contoured to fit the right foot and the left foot.

### **Sub-Chapter 3: A Taxing War**

- For the first 75 years of the country's existence, custom duties provided enough income to meet the needs of the nation.
- During the war, new taxes were enacted, including a personal property tax, real estate tax, and income tax. In the Confederacy, citizens paid these taxes with paper Confederate dollars, which were almost worthless.
- Post offices became a center for weeping and despair as people received sad news about loved ones in the army. Because of this, home-delivery of mail came into practice.

### **Sub-Chapter 4: The Sounds of War**

- The war resulted in over 3,000 melodies being written that represented different sentiments of the soldiers; popular ones included "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "The Yellow Rose of Texas," in addition to many others.
- The "Taps" bugle call was utilized for good-night calls, and today the call can be heard as a farewell tune.
- Robert E. Lee and his wife lived in Arlington, Virginia, before the war. During the war, Union troops seized his home and later created Arlington National Cemetery on the grounds.
- When Jackson died, thousands of people came out to commemorate him by placing blossoms on his casket as they walked past. This could be the origin of the practice of sending flowers to a funeral.

### **Sub-Chapter 5: Images Come Home**

- Photographers like Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner took still pictures of battlefields after the fighting ended. These photos were mass produced on printing presses and printed in magazines, bringing images of dead bodies and the horrors of the war directly into peoples' homes.
- The war also affected newspapers and the telegraph, which would eventually lead to other technological developments like telephones, faxes, and computers.
- The Medal of Honor was created in October 1862. Other improvements for veterans included pensions, welfare, and the creation of veterans' hospitals.
- In 1864, the national motto "In God We Trust" first appeared on coins.

### **Sub-Chapter 6: National Holidays**

- Memorial Day was created to honor all soldiers who died so that the United States could live.
- In 1863 and 1864, President Lincoln called on the country to give thanks for the gifts and benefits Americans enjoyed, thus creating the holiday of Thanksgiving.
- The faces of President Lincoln and Robert E. Lee became recognizable during the war, but so did the face of Santa Claus, created by Thomas Nast and first seen in *Harper's Weekly* in 1862. The image of Santa Claus earned significance since it was an original American figure and provided an image over which the North and South could unite.

### **Sub-Chapter 7: Honoring Our Past**

- In the United States, over 100 national cemeteries mark the fallen soldiers of the war, reminding Americans of their great love for the nation and the torch they have passed to us.
- Sadly, the tombstones of thousands of soldier graves are simply marked "Unknown."

### **Sub-Chapter 8: Enemies and Friends**

- Confederate General Joseph Johnston and Union General William Sherman had every reason to hate one another, but instead the two generals who fought on opposite sides during the war began a correspondence afterward that turned into a friendship. In 1891, Johnston traveled to New York for Sherman's funeral; Johnston died six weeks later from pneumonia, which he contracted during that trip.
- Virginia cherishes and pays tribute to its past through preserved battlefields, stone memorials, roadside markers, a department of tourism, and numerous historical societies.

### **Sub-Chapter 9: Virginia's Heritage**

- Sacrifices of the Civil War will forever be part of Virginia's heritage.
- The bonds of freedom, affection, and equality should now unite us all. If they do, Virginia's darkest hour may become its finest moment.

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