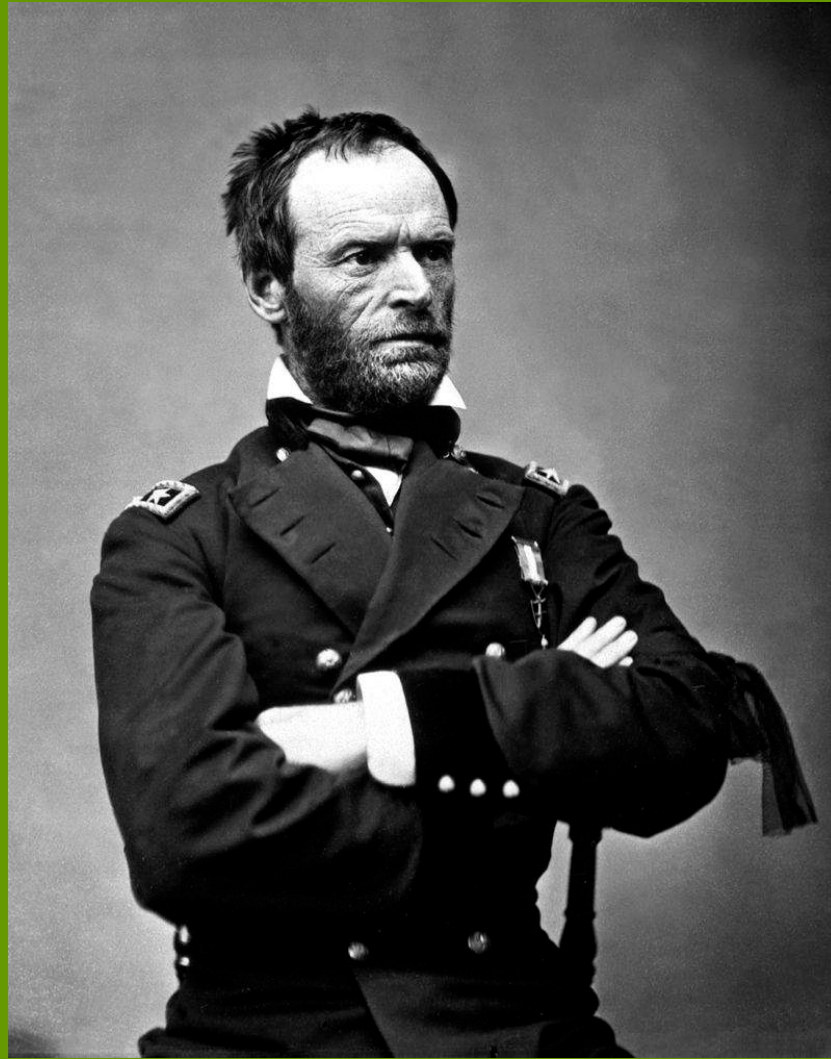


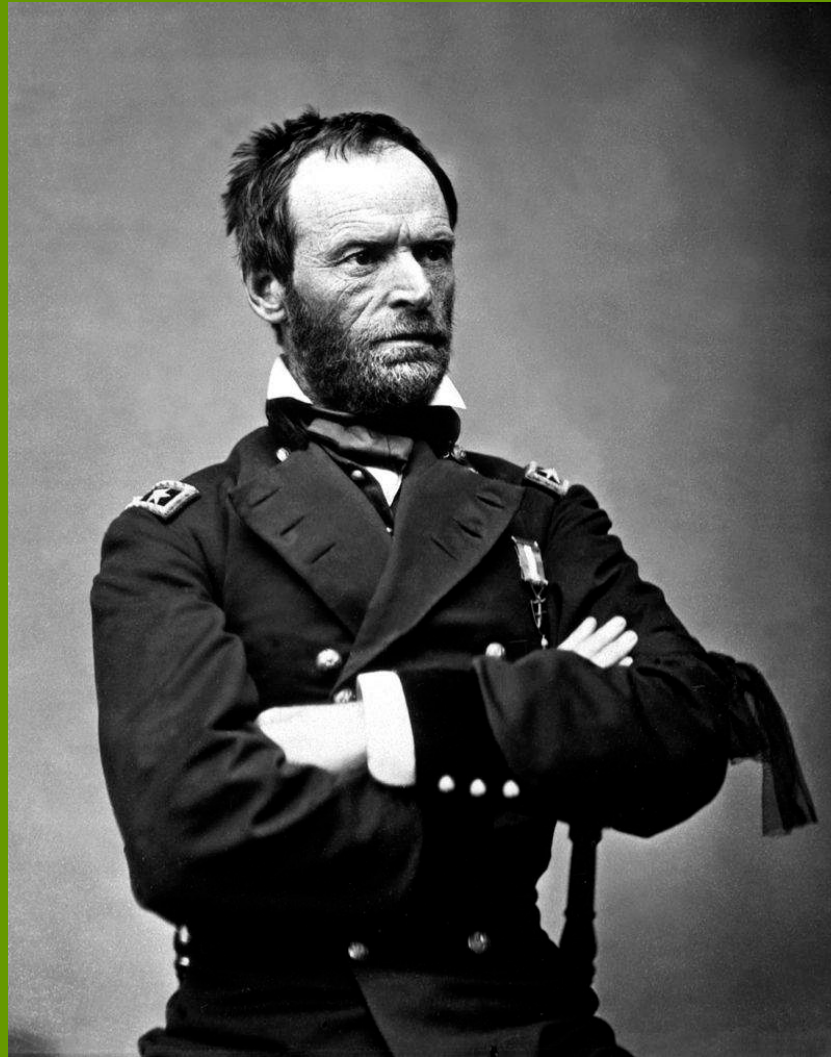
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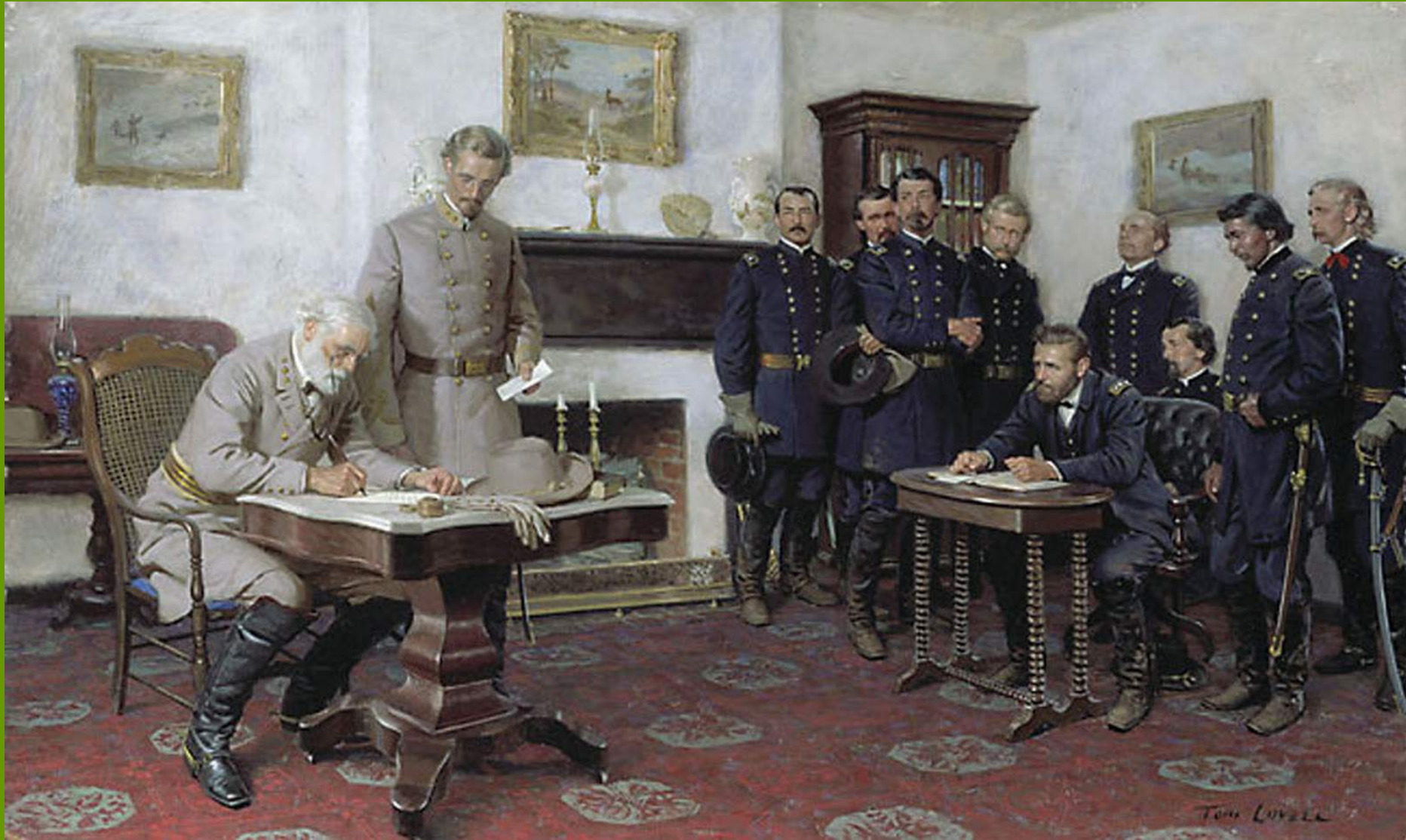
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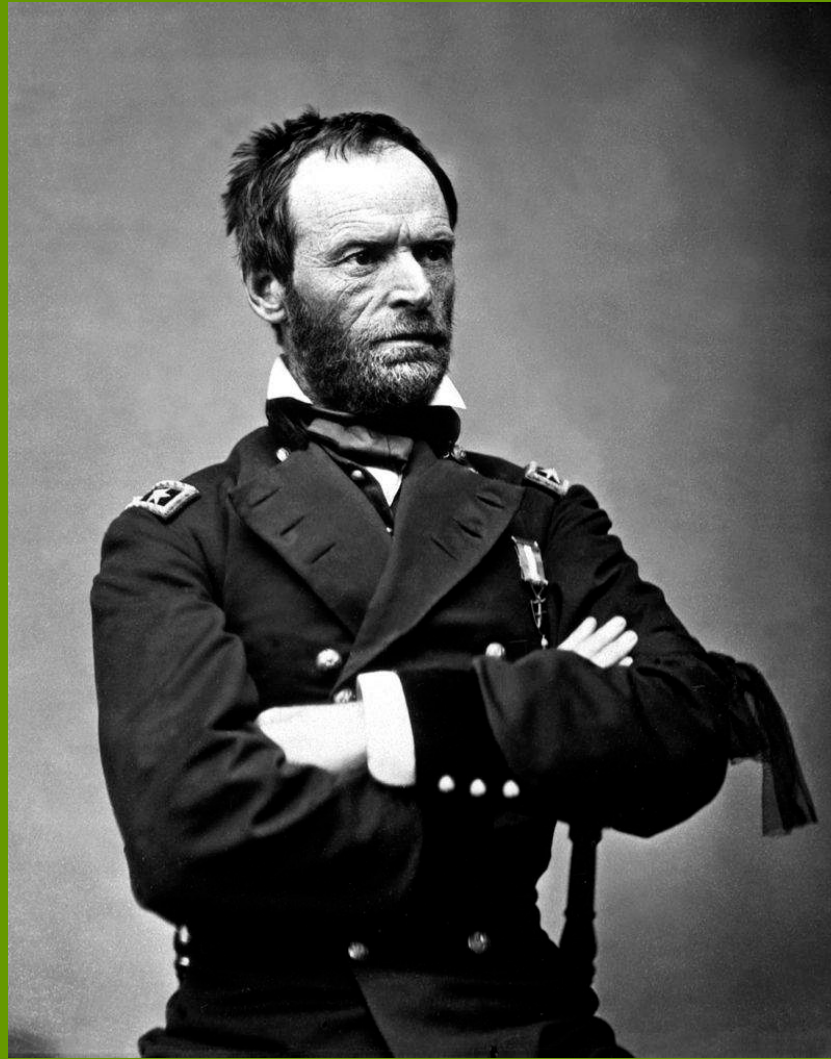
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# The American Civil War The Last Campaigns



This image shows Confederate General Robert E. Lee on the left signing the surrender document in the McClean parlor at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. With Lee is his Chief of Staff, Charles Marshall. On the right is Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and some of his officers. This painting is titled "The Surrender At Appomattox 1865." This image was created by Tom Lovell (1909-1997). This image is courtesy of The National Park Service.

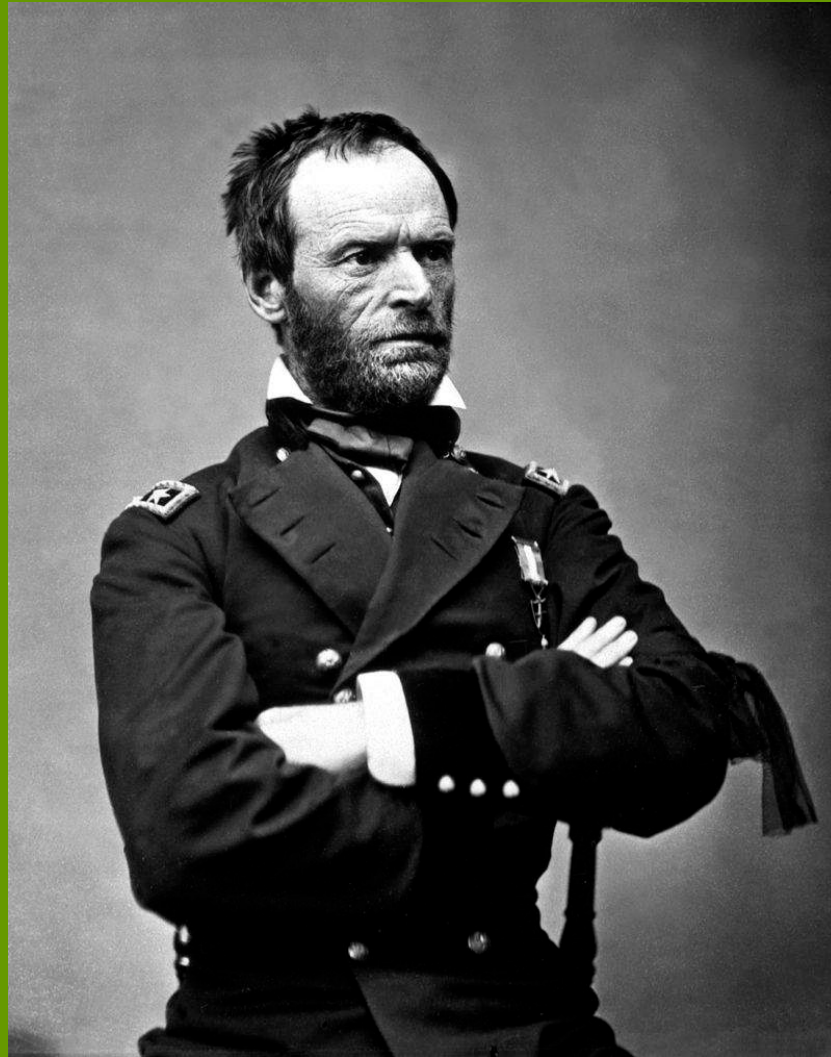
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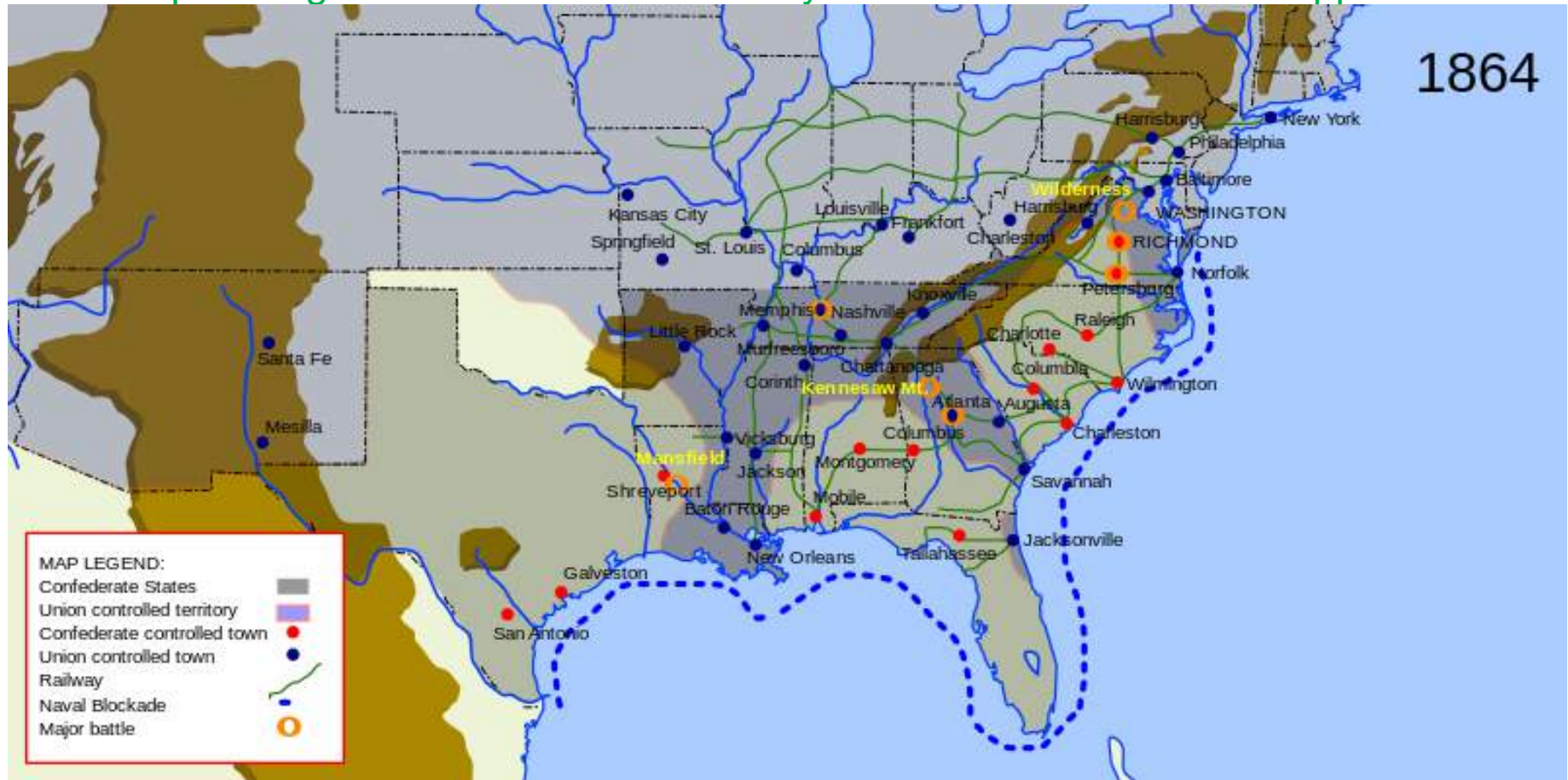
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After the Southern defeats at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga, Northern troops occupied large areas of the Confederacy and controlled the Mississippi River.



The areas occupied by the Union armies is colored in a blueish-gray on this map. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Near the end of the war, the Southern railroad system lay in ruins and Southern armies suffered from a lack of supplies.



**The Northern armies prepared to finish the war.** This image was taken of the ruins of the Schofield Rolling Mill outside of Atlanta, Georgia in September, 1864. Notice the metal wheels on the tracks. The wooden box cars had been burned. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

President Lincoln promoted Grant to the command of all of the Union armies.



Grant told Lincoln, "Whatever happens, there will be no turning back." Grant's new rank was Lieutenant General. Lieutenant Generals wear three stars. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

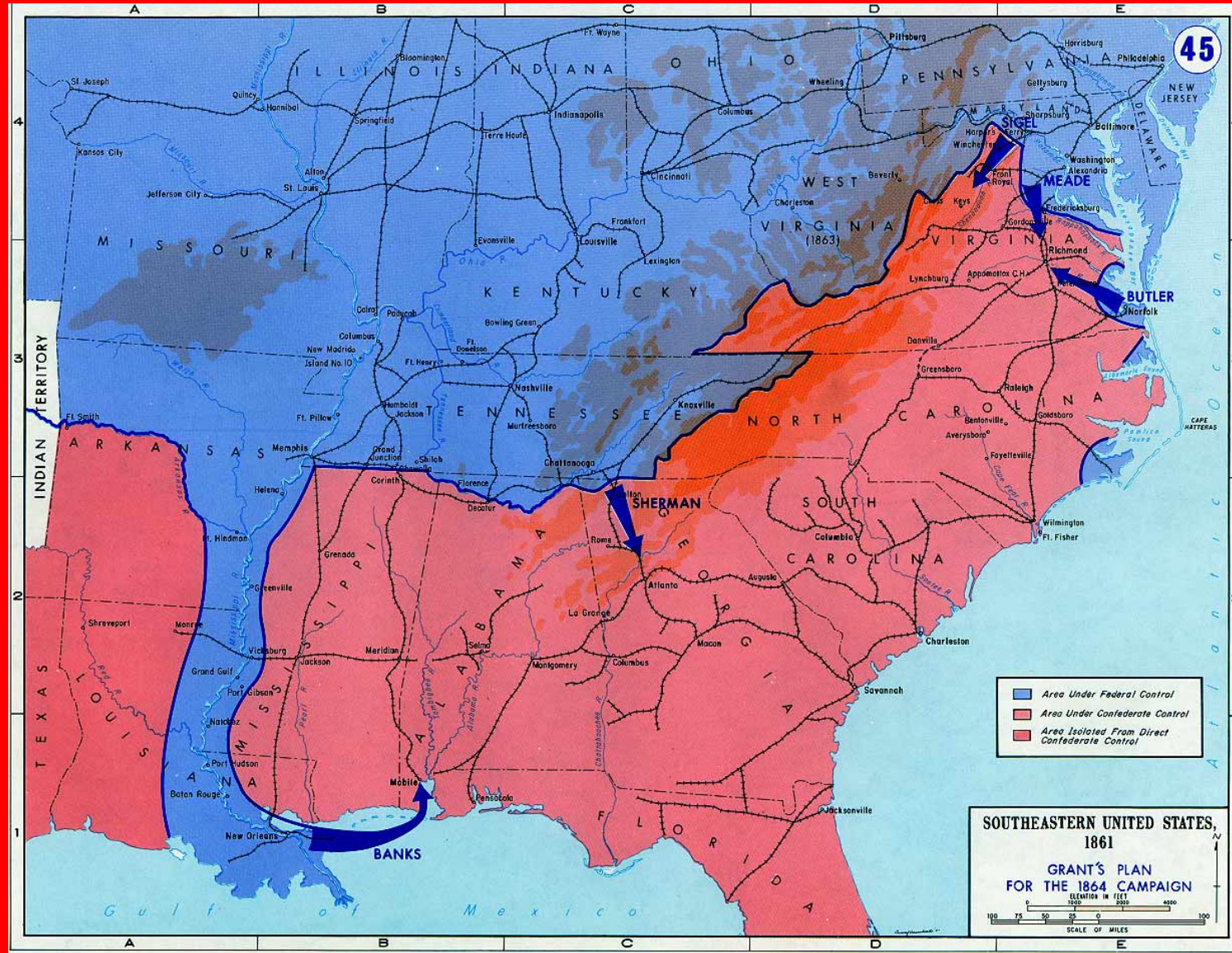


As the person in charge of all of the United States armies, Grant planned to wage total war against the Confederates, destroying their resources as well as their armies.



The total war policy meant that Southern citizens suffered as much as Confederate soldiers. This image appeared in Benson John Lossing's Harper's Encyclopedia of United States History, Volume 8. It was published in 1912 in New York City by Harper and Brothers. This image is courtesy of sonofthesouth.net.

# Grant targeted Richmond and Atlanta, the last two major rail centers that supplied Southern troops.



Grant also wanted to target the two armies guarding these locations, the Army of Tennessee in Georgia, and the Army of Northern Virginia outside of Richmond. This image is courtesy of ohio-state.edu.

Grant set out for Richmond and ordered Union General William Tecumseh Sherman to move towards Atlanta.



This image shows William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) circa 1865. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Meanwhile Grant ordered Philip Henry Sheridan to destroy the rich farmlands that fed the Confederate army in Virginia.



Grant instructed Sheridan to devastate the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia so completely that "a crow flying over the area would need to carry its own rations." This image is titled "Sheridan's Ride." This chromolithograph was created by Thure de Thulstrup (1848-1930) for L. Prang & Co. circa 1886. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

In the western theater, Major General William Tecumseh Sherman wanted to show Southerners that their government could not protect them.



This image is titled "Sherman's March." It was created by Felix Octavius Carr Darley (1822-1888) and engraved by Alexander Hay Ritchie (1822-1895) circa 1868. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

In May 1864 Sherman set out for Atlanta from Chattanooga with 100,000 soldiers.



Sherman left Chattanooga in May, 1864 at the same time that Grant was advancing on Lee's army in Virginia. There were many battles fought between Chattanooga and Atlanta. This image is courtesy of pbs.org.

Sherman captured Atlanta in September, 1864 defeating a Confederate army of about 62,000.



This is an image from the Atlanta Cyclorama. This image shows fighting around the Troup Hurt House during the Battle of Atlanta on July 22, 1864. This image is courtesy of the [atlantacyclorama.org](http://atlantacyclorama.org).

After the Confederates left, much of Atlanta burned to the ground and Sherman destroyed the main railroad line.



This image is titled "Sherman's March." It was created by Felix Octavius Carr Darley (1822-1888) circa 1868. This image is courtesy of The Granger Collection.



Sherman's troops then began a march to the Georgia Coast.



Sherman planned to march his men across Georgia to Savannah. This image is courtesy of pbs.org.

On this march, Sherman's troops would forage for food, or live off the land.



Sherman's forces left a 60-mile-wide strip of burned crops, barns, and warehouses in their path. They destroyed all property that helped the Confederate government and the Confederate armies in order that white Southerners would give up instead of continuing to fight. This image showing Union soldiers capturing and butchering southern livestock was created by James E. Taylor in 1888. This image is courtesy of [georgiaencyclopedia.org](http://georgiaencyclopedia.org).

# Slaves greeted Sherman's troops wherever they went.



This image is titled "Contrabands Accompanying the Line of Sherman's March Through Georgia. This image was created for the March 18, 1865 edition of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

# White Southerners viewed Sherman differently.



Because Sherman's soldiers destroyed their property, he became one of the most hated men in the South. This image shows the Ruins of the Atlanta Depot After Burning by Gen. Sherman's Troops, 1864." This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Sherman reached the Atlantic Coast at Savannah, Georgia in December 1864 and sent Lincoln the following telegram: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah."



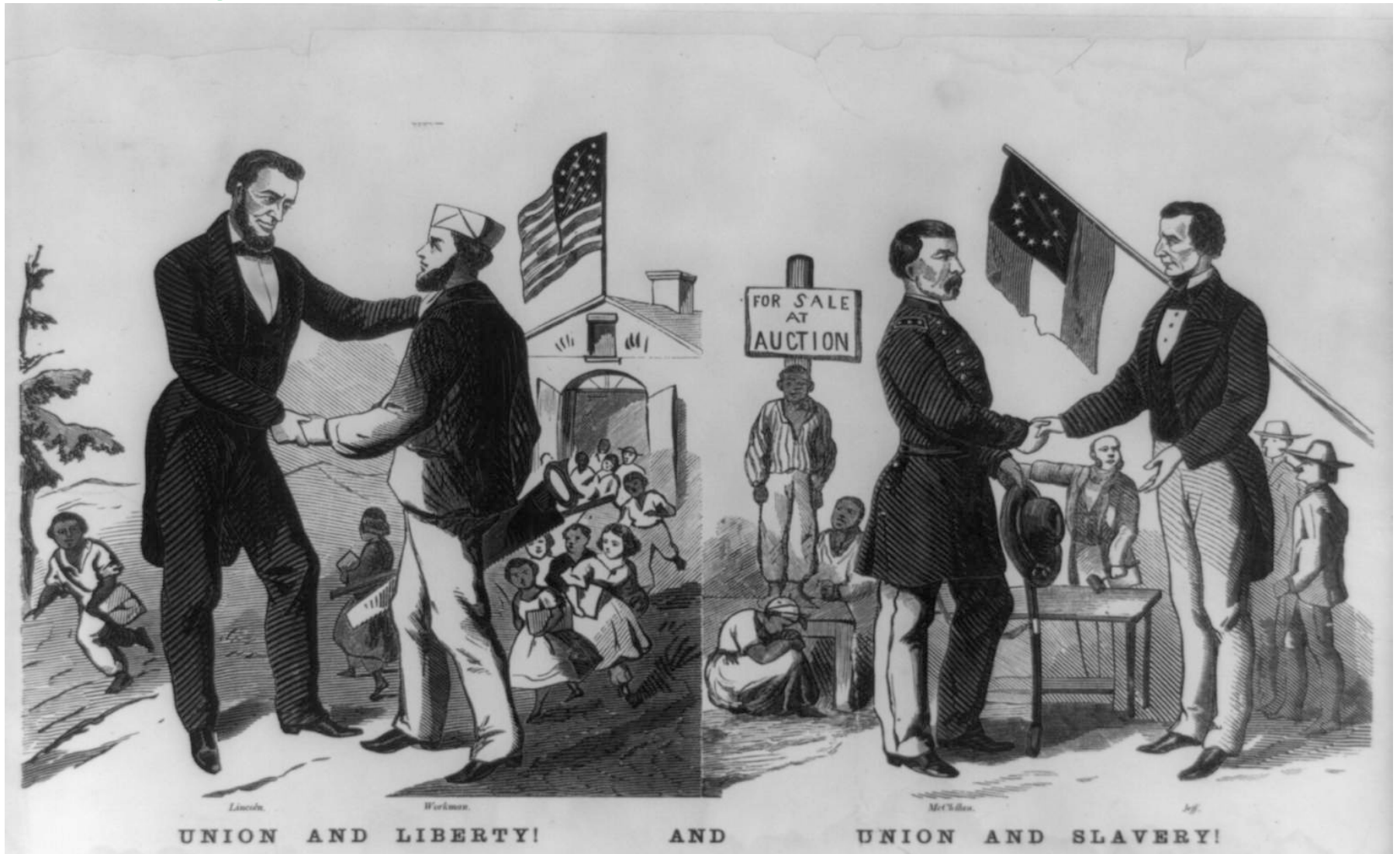
This image is titled "General Sherman Reviewing His Army at Savannah." This image was created by William Waud for the February 11, 1865 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. This is a colorized version of the original image. This image is courtesy of [georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu](http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu).

After capturing Savannah, Sherman's army next marched into South Carolina.



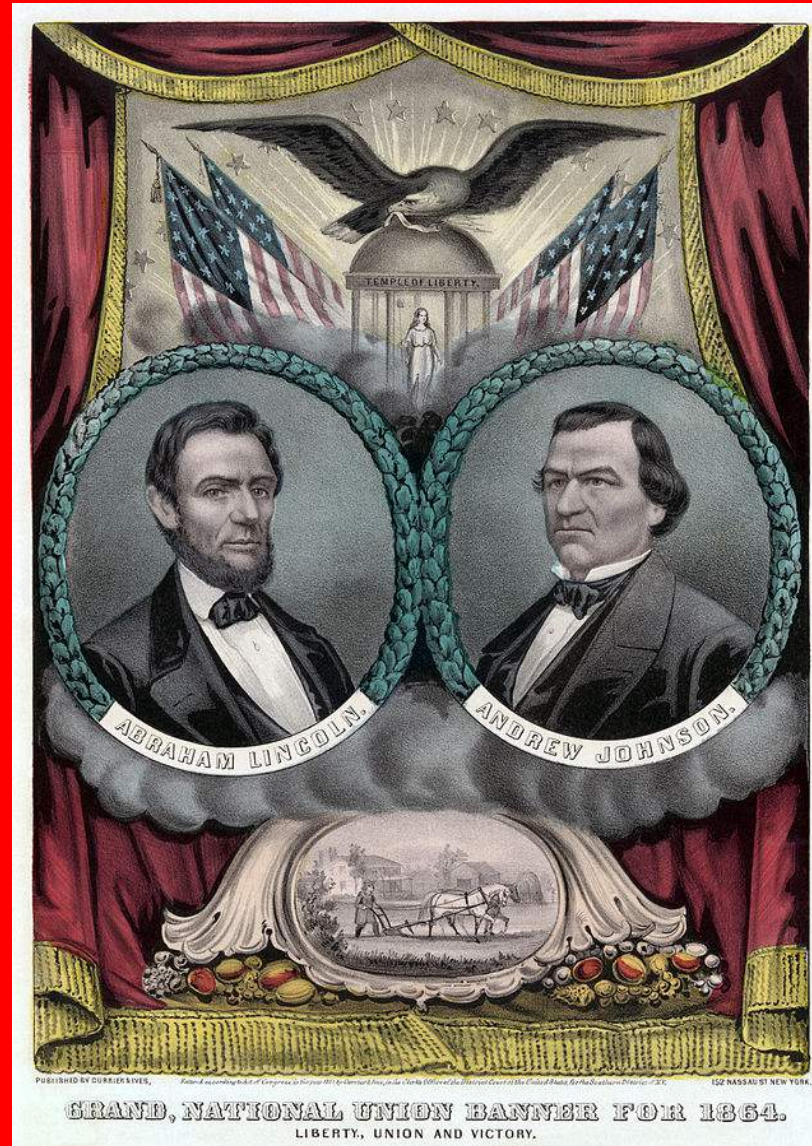
Sherman's men entered South Carolina, and destroyed Columbia, the state capital. Many of the Union soldiers believed that South Carolina had started the war, and they wanted them to suffer more than other Southerners. Very little was spared in Columbia. This image is titled "Ruins Seen From the capitol, Columbia, South Carolina, 1865." This image was created by George N. Barnard (1819-1902). This image is courtesy of the National Archives.

# During the war, a presidential election took place.



In the North the war divided both major parties— Republicans and Democrats into peace and war factions. This is a pro-Lincoln poster. It shows if one votes for Lincoln, everyone will be free, and the working man will have a job. If one votes for his opponent, George McClellan, then there will still be slavery, and the Confederacy will have its own country. This image was created by Martin W. Siebert (born circa 1810) This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

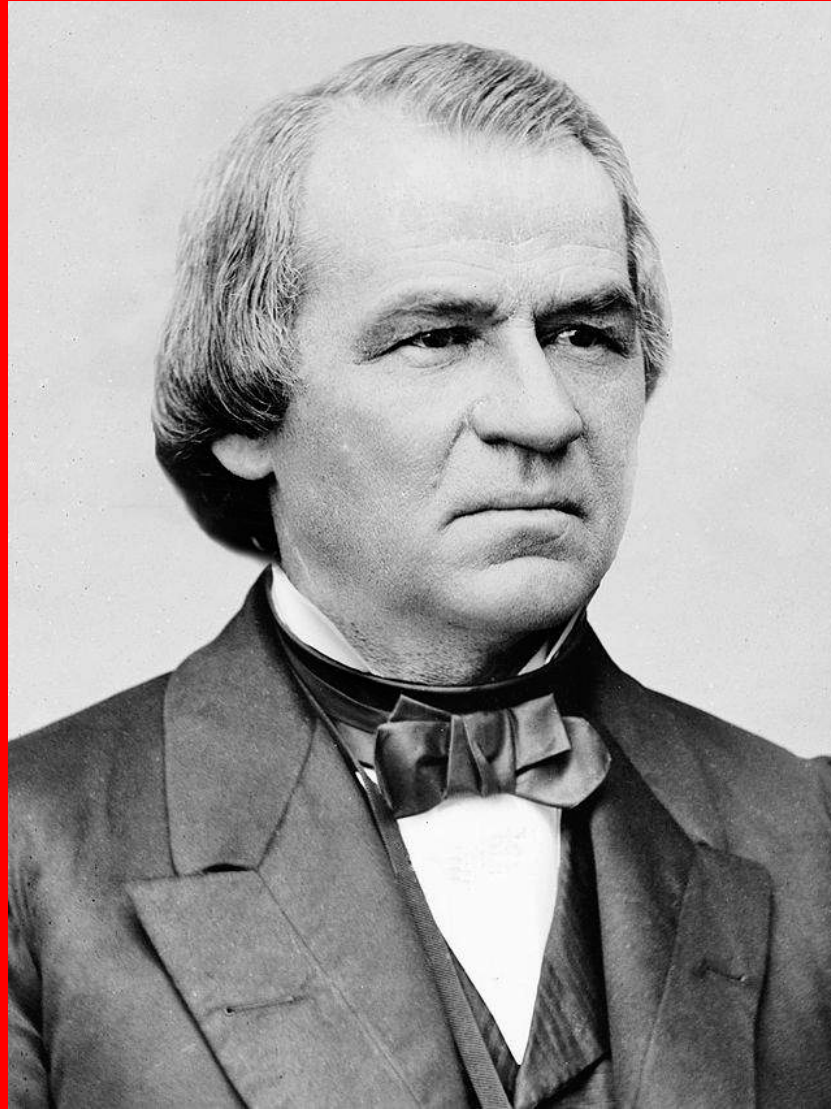
The Republican party temporarily changed its name to the “Union Party” to attract Democrats who supported the war.



This image shows a campaign poster for President Abraham Lincoln, and his Vice-Presidential candidate, Andrew Johnson during the 1864 election. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.



Now known as “Unionists,” the Republicans nominated Lincoln and chose a War Democrat for Vice President, Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.



Andrew Johnson was a Democrat Senator from Tennessee who refused to leave the United States Congress when Tennessee seceded from the Union. This image was taken circa 1875. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The largely antiwar Democrats nominated George McClellan, the popular general whom Lincoln had twice removed from command.



McClellan caused some controversy in his party, however, by refusing to support the Democrat's peace platform, which would have immediately ended the war and allowed the Confederacy to have its own country. McClellan felt that if supported the platform, all the men whom he had commanded in the war would have fought and died for nothing. This campaign poster describes McClellan as "The People's Choice for Seventeenth President of the United States." This image was created by Currier & Ives. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

# Lincoln did not expect to win reelection.



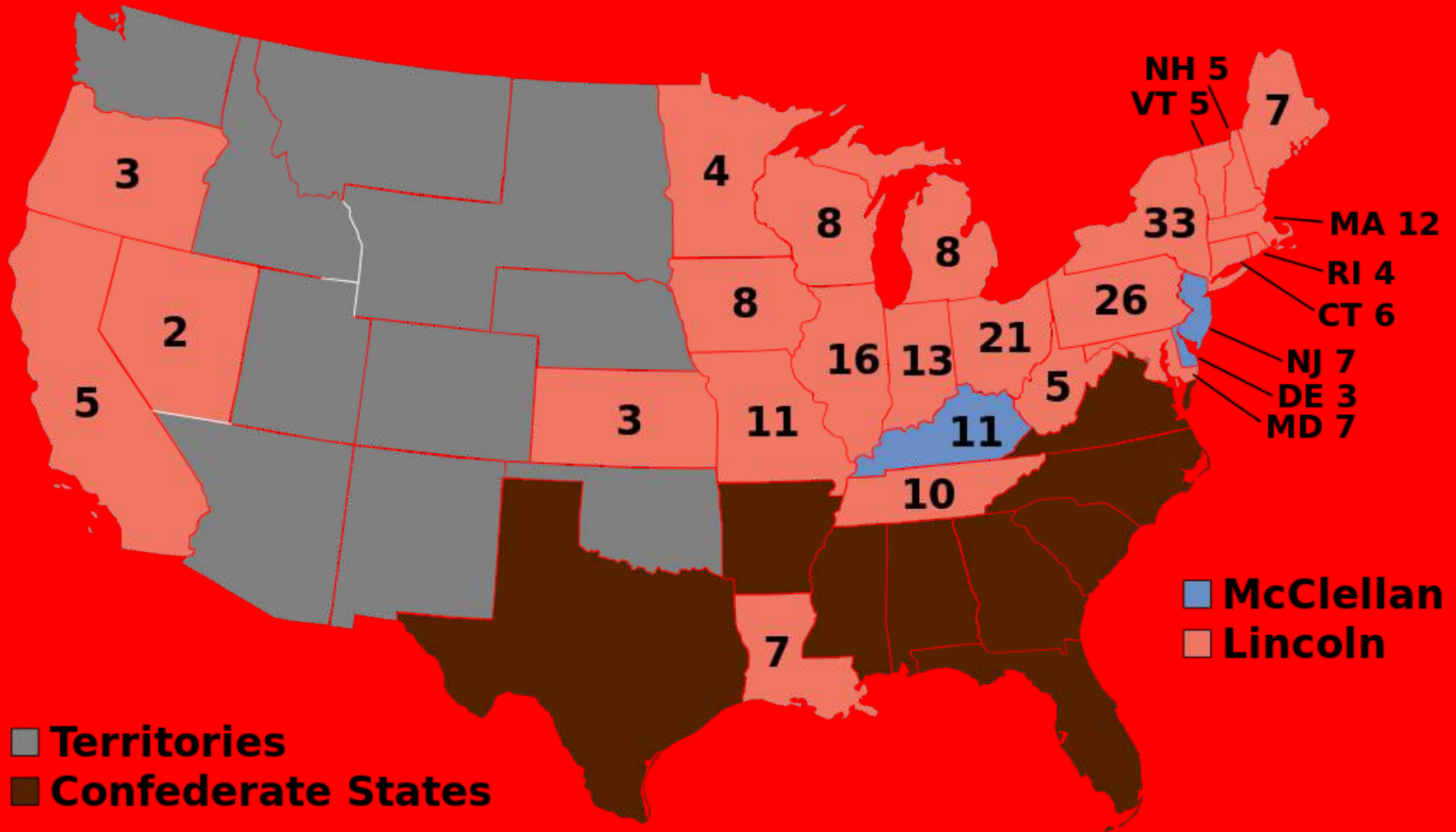
Lincoln even had his cabinet pledge their support to the new President of the United States when he was elected. This image is titled "President Lincoln and His Cabinet. In council, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1862. Adopting the Emancipation Proclamation Issued Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1863." This image was created by Currier and Ives circa 1876. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

**Sherman's capture of Atlanta just two months before the election, however, gave Lincoln a decisive victory.**



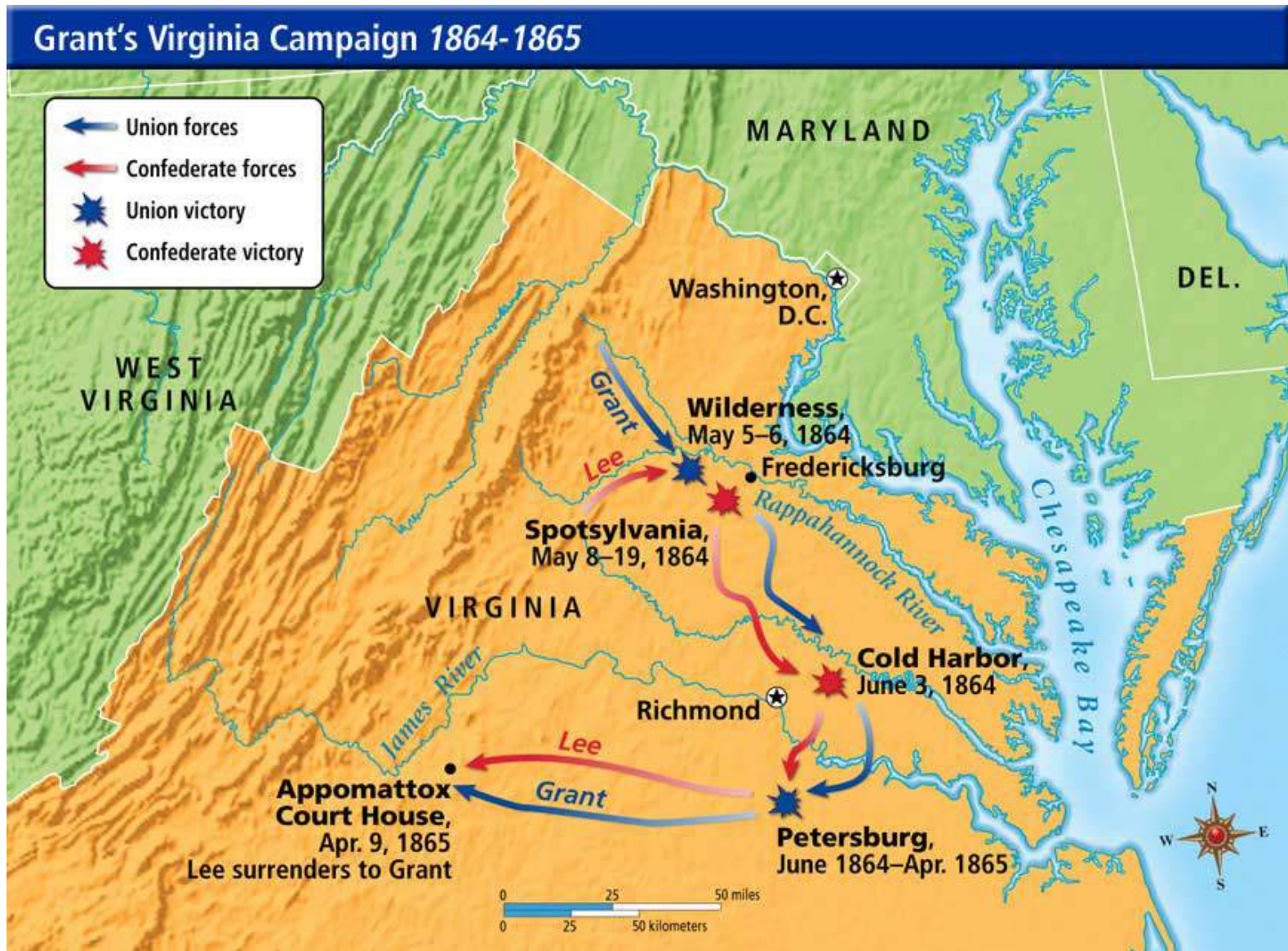
Northerners now felt more confident that they could win the war. This image is titled "Atlanta, Ga. Gen. William T. Sherman on Horseback at Federal Fort No. 7." This image was created by George N. Barnard (1819-1902). This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Lincoln's election victory meant that the war would continue until the South surrendered and slavery ended.



During the 1864 election, the United States government allowed soldiers to vote in the field. The 11 Southern states in rebellion, did not participate in the election, or in the case of Tennessee and Louisiana, did not have their votes counted. 117 electoral votes were needed to win the election. Lincoln won 212. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# While Sherman marched to Atlanta, Grant's forces fought Lee's army at three sites in Virginia



The Virginia battles took place at three main sites— the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. This image is courtesy of [jb-hdnp.org](http://jb-hdnp.org).

In all three battles, both sides suffered many casualties.



The battles, however, took the heaviest toll on Grant's soldiers. Some people began to nickname Grant "the Butcher" for the large number of his men that were killed in his attacks on the Confederate lines. This image is titled "Collecting Remains of Killed at Cold Harbor for Re-Internment." This image was taken by John Reekie in 1865. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

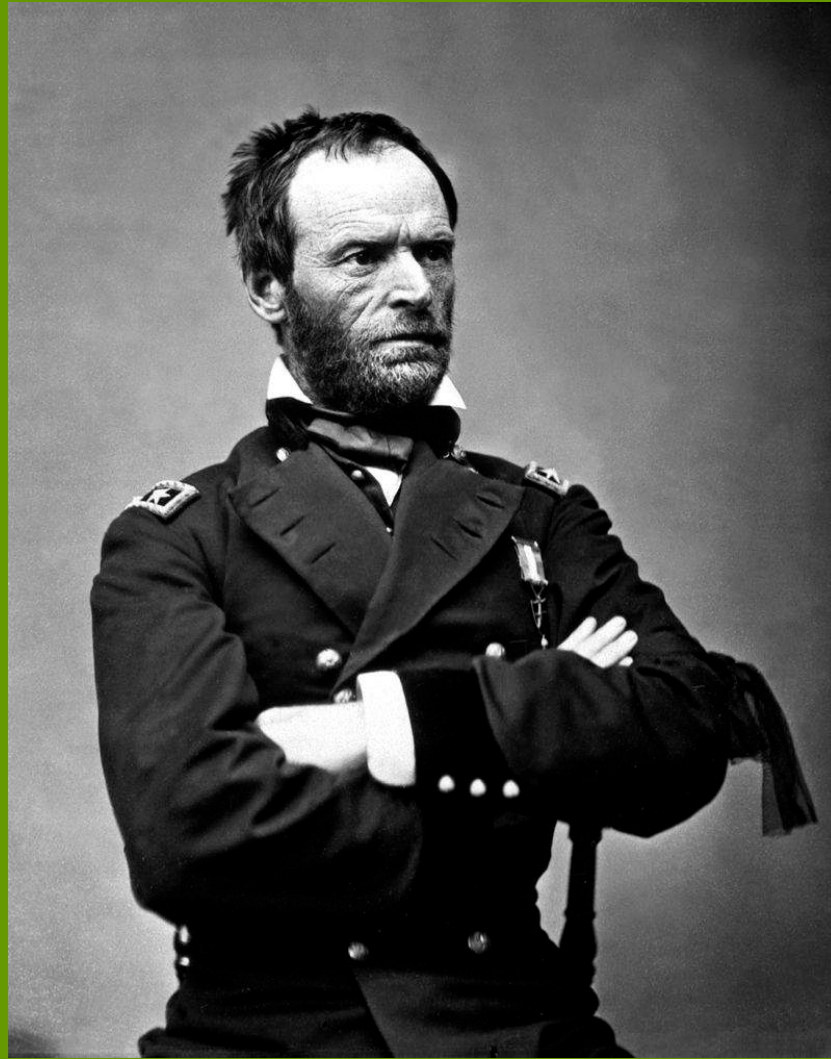
Lee expected Grant to retreat, as other Union generals had after being defeated.



**Grant, however, refused to admit that he had been defeated.** This image shows Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant bending over some of his officers at a “Council of War” near Massaponax, Virginia on May 21, 1864. The photographer is on the second floor of a Baptist Church. The church pews have been removed for the officers. This image was taken by Timothy H. O’Sullivan (1840-1882). This image is courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



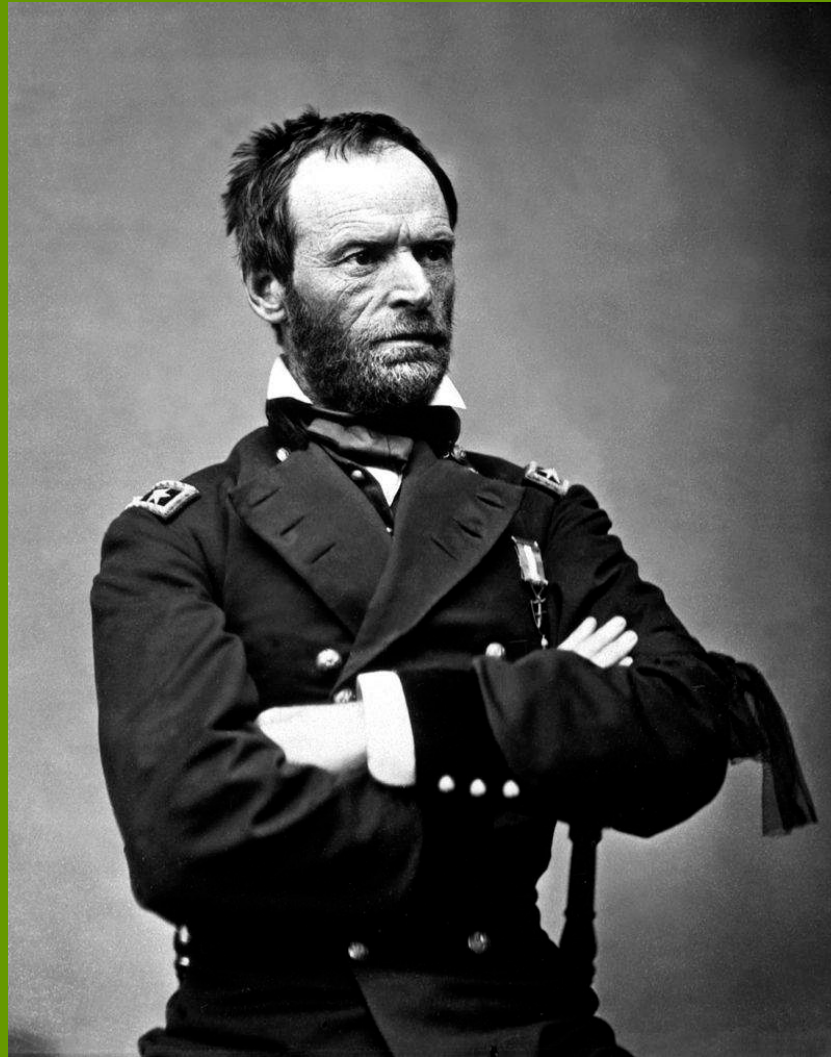
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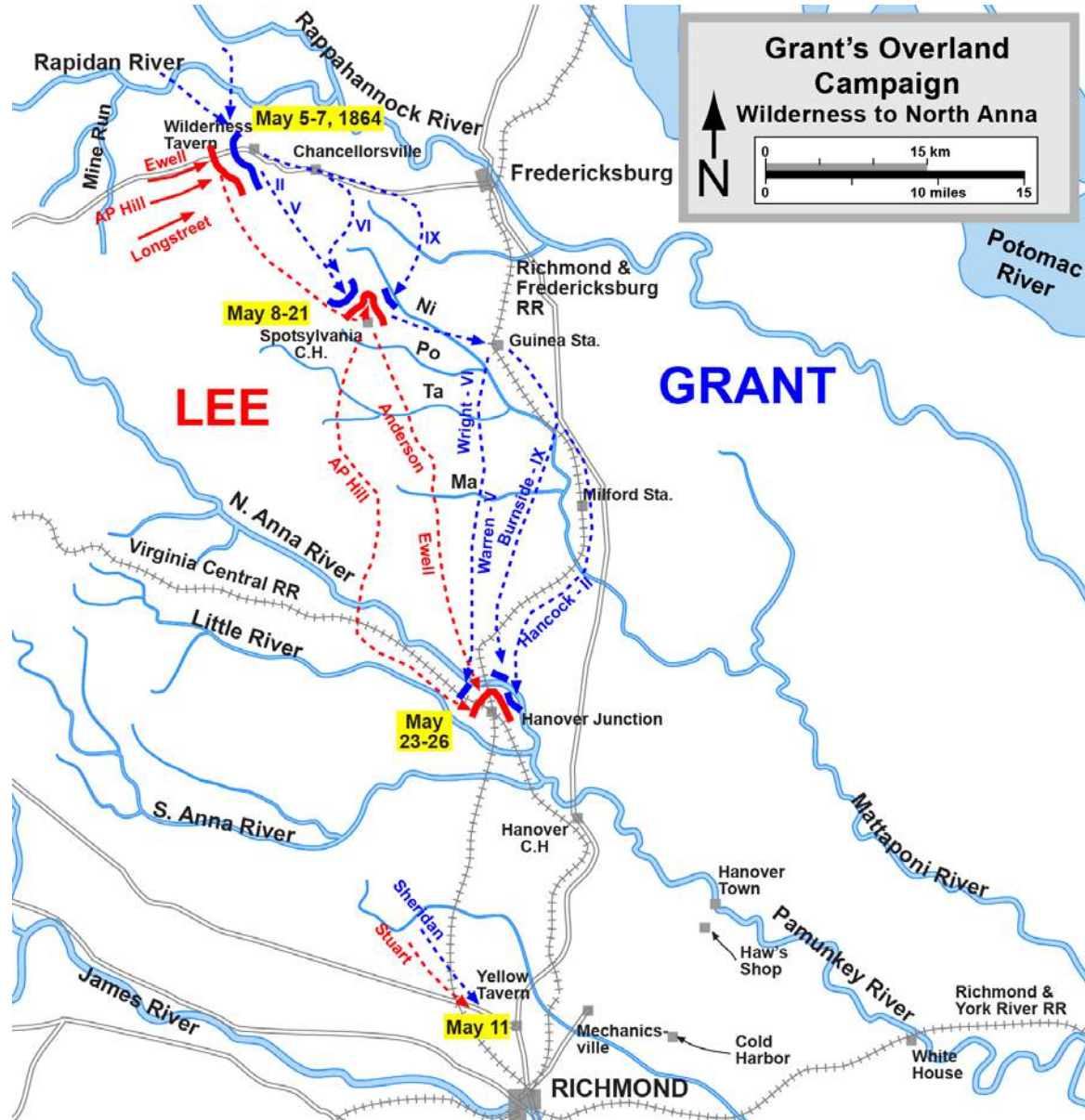
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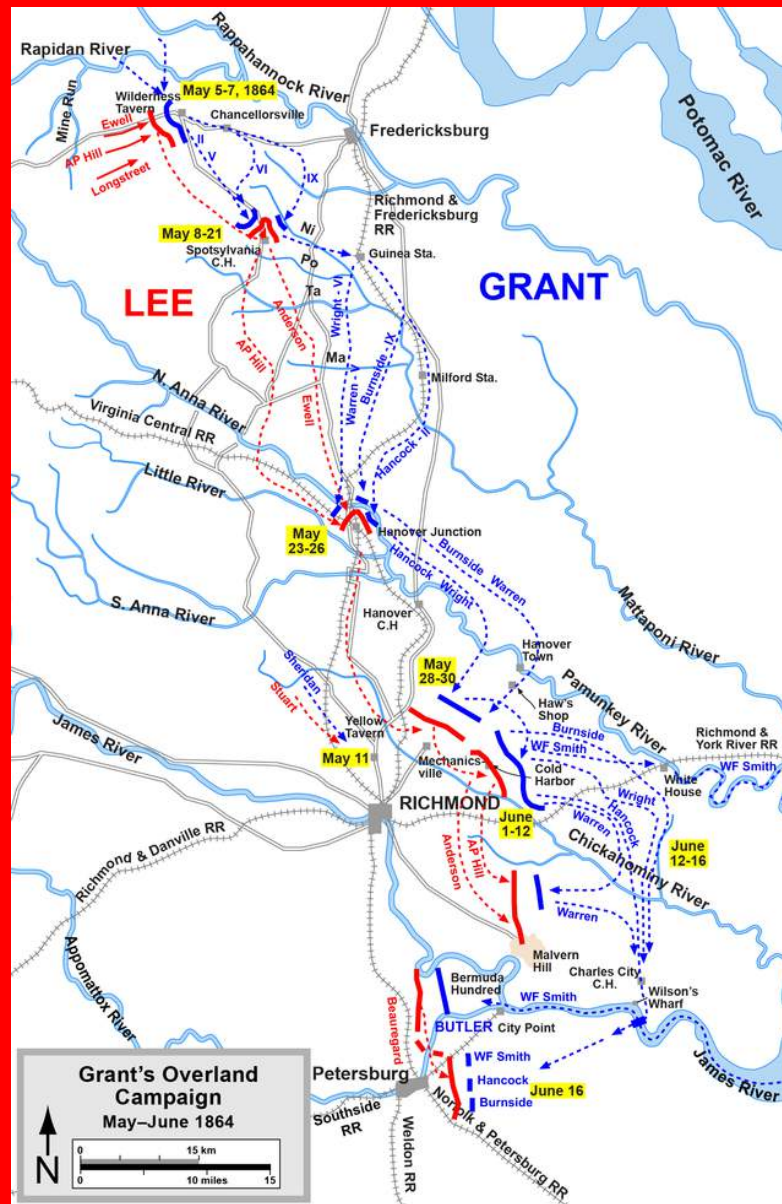
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Grant moved his army closer to Richmond after each battle.



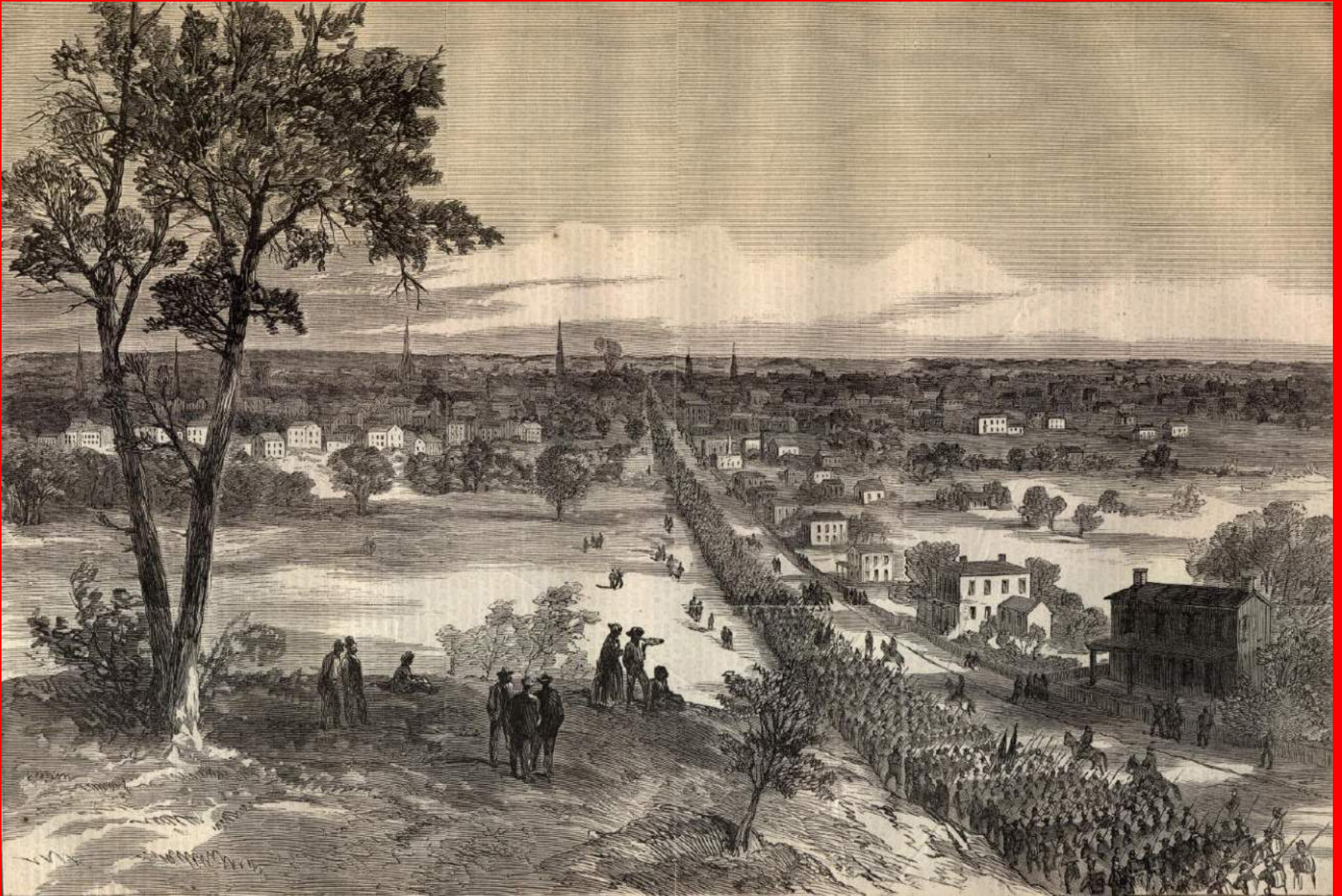
Lee's army tried to keep his Rebels between the Yankees and the Confederate capital. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Part of Grant's forces slipped past Lee and reached Petersburg, Virginia.



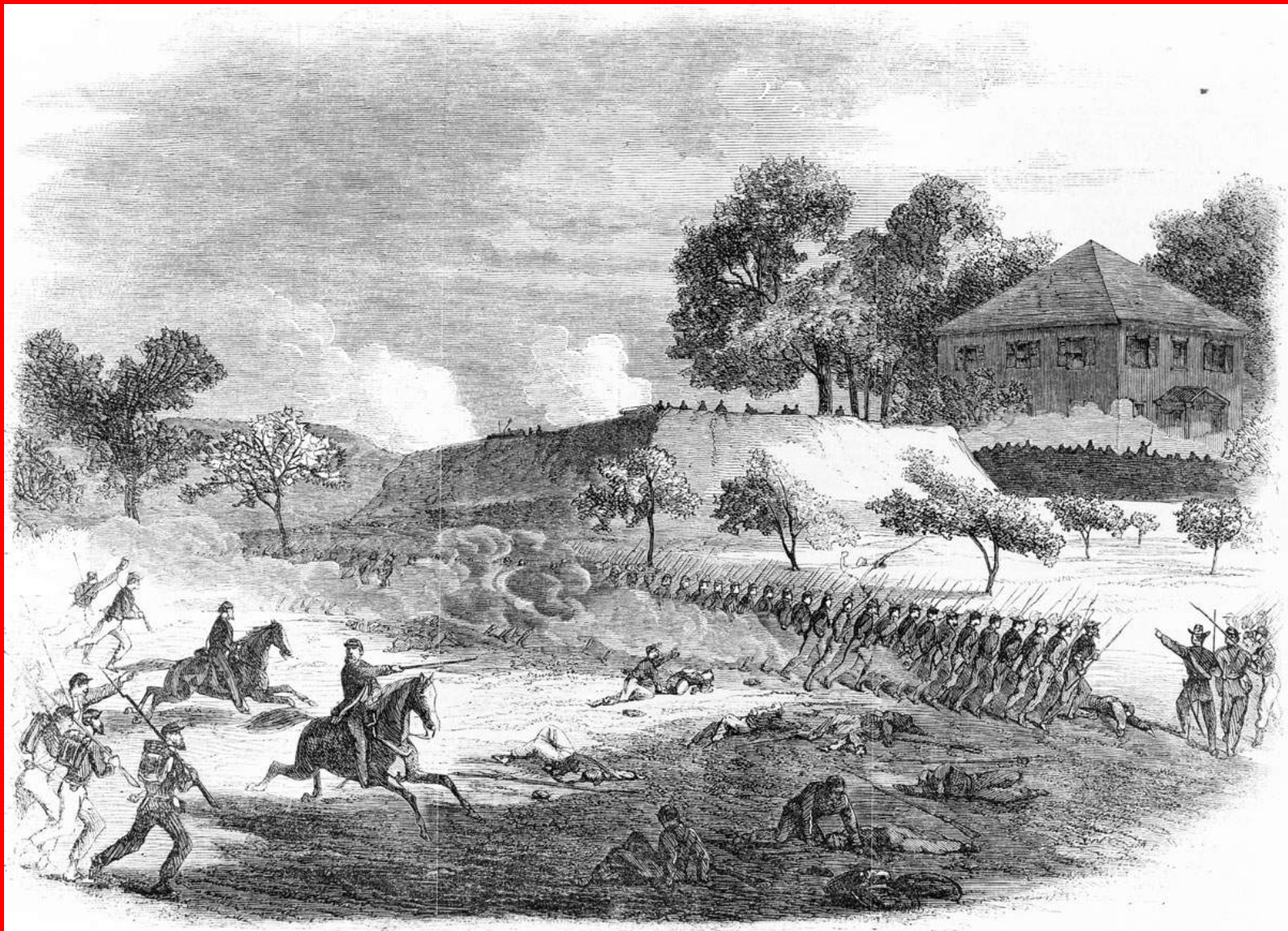
We now know that Union Major General Benjamin Butler could have marched into Petersburg if he had been more aggressive. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

All roads supplying Richmond and Lee's Army ran through Petersburg.



If Union soldiers took Petersburg, Richmond would also fall. This image is titled "The Union Army Entering Petersburg, Virginia, April 3, 1865." This image was created by J.R. Hamilton for the April 22, 1865 edition of Harper's Weekly. This image is courtesy of sonofthesouth.net.

The Union soldiers attempted to attack Petersburg, but they failed to capture it.



Lee's army arrived and dug in to defend Petersburg. Grant's forces attacked Lee's defenses again and again but made little headway. This image shows the United States Army's XVIII Corps attempting to attack Petersburg on June 15, 1864. This image was created by Edwin Forbes (1839-1895) for the July 9, 1864 edition of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

In June 1864, Grant realized that only a siege could destroy Lee's army.



Grant planned to force Lee's troops to stay in the trenches at Petersburg until they ran out of supplies and soldiers. This image is titled "View From the Breastworks of Fort Sedgwick, Called by the Rebel Soldiers 'Fort Hell.'" The pointed logs are abatis used to discourage an attack on the trenches. This image was taken on April 3, 1865 by E. & H. T. Anthony. This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

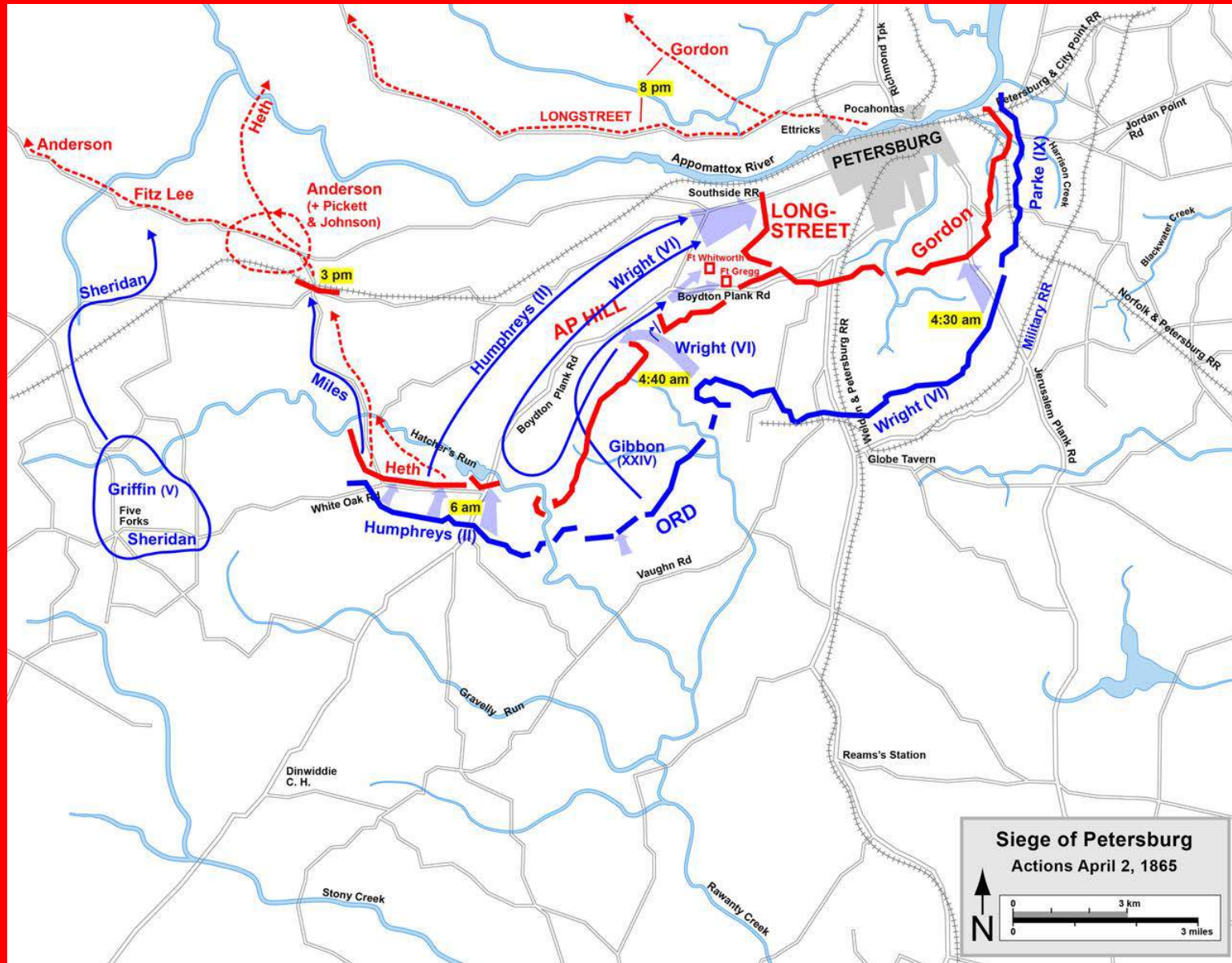
The siege of Petersburg and Richmond lasted nine months.



Grant's troops suffered severe losses, but so did Lee's forces. Grant could more easily get new troops, while Lee eventually ran out of soldiers. This image shows "The Dictator" a 13 inch mortar at the Siege of Petersburg in September, 1864. The Dictator weighted 17,120 pounds. It could fire a 220 pound artillery shell over two and a half miles. This image was taken by David Knox. This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.



# On April 2, 1865 Grant finally broke through Lee's lines.



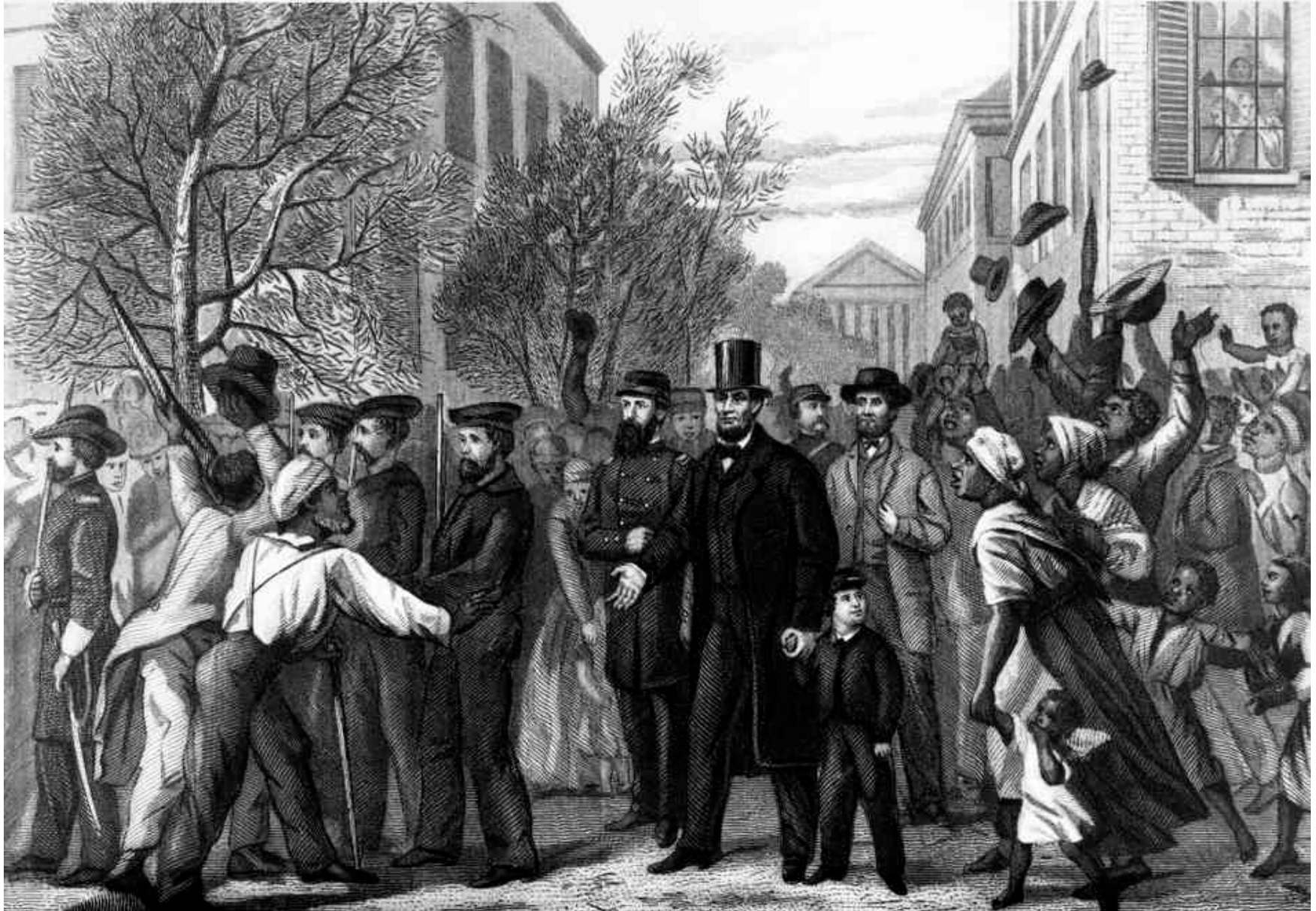
The United States broke through the Confederate lines on the Confederate right (Union left). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

That same day, April 2, 1865, the Confederate government evacuated Richmond.



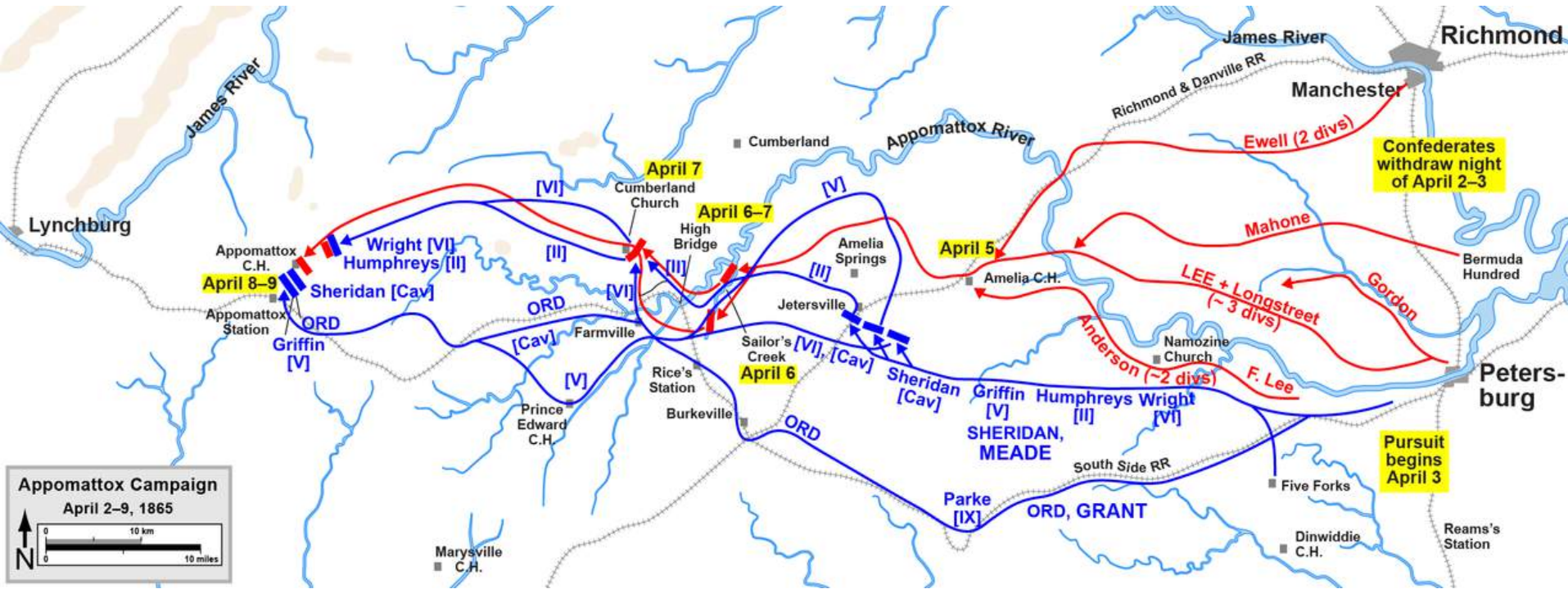
Union soldiers entered Richmond on April 3, 1865. This image is titled “The Fall of Richmond, Va. On The Night of April 2d. 1865.” This image was created by Currier and Ives. This image is courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**Abraham Lincoln visited Richmond, and thousands of African Americans turned out, cheering him every step of the way.**



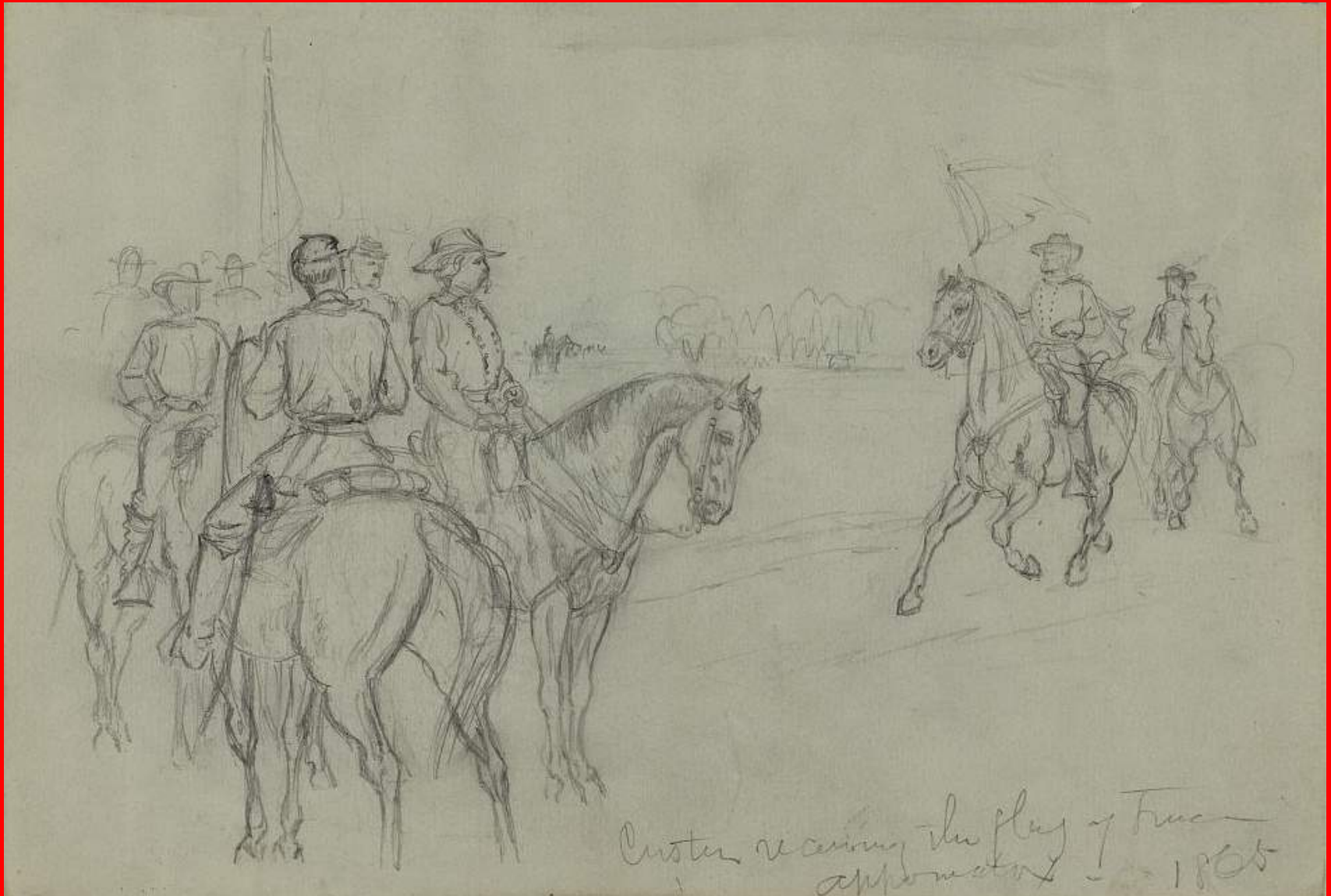
Abraham Lincoln entered Richmond, Virginia on April 4, 1865. This image is courtesy of npr.org.

# When Richmond fell, Lee and his army retreated westward.



Grant chased Lee and overtook him. Confederates are shown in red. The United States soldiers are shown in blue. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Realizing that continued fighting would mean more lives lost, Lee dispatched a white flag and a request to cease fighting.



This image is titled "Custer Receiving the Flag of Truce, Appomattox- 1865." This image was created by Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828-1891) on April 8, 1865. This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

On the afternoon of April 9, 1865 the two leaders met in a house owned by a former resident of the Bull Run battlefields, Wilmer McLean...



Wilmer McLean (1814-1882) was a wholesale grocer who supplied food items to the Confederate army. The First Battle of Manassas occurred on his farm on July 21, 1861. His Manassas home was used as headquarters by Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard. A cannonball went into his fireplace. He decided to move in 1863 to southwest Virginia. A saying related to McLean is that the Civil War "started in his front yard and ended in his front parlor." This image of the McLean House was taken by Timothy O'Sullivan (1840-1882) in April, 1865. This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

... in the little settlement of Appomattox Court House, Virginia.



They did not meet in the Court House itself because it was Palm Sunday, the doors were locked, and nobody could find a key to unlock them. This image shows United States soldiers at the Court House in April, 1865. This image was taken by Timothy O'Sullivan (1840-1882). This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

Dressed in his best uniform with an engraved sword at his side, Lee waited at McLean's two-story brick house.



Lee explained to an aide, "I have probably to be General Grant's prisoner and thought I must make my best appearance." This image is titled "Surrender of General Lee to General Grant, at Appomattox Court House, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1865." The black and white version of this image was created by Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828-1891) in 1887. This image is courtesy of omni-edu.com.



Grant showed up for the meeting wearing a rumpled coat and muddy boots.



Grant did not have a sword. He and Lee greeted each other and at first talked about the Mexican War. This image is titled "Let Us Have Peace." It was created by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris in 1920. This image is courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society.

Then Grant offered Lee generous terms of surrender.



Lee read the terms, and he mentioned that his soldiers owned their horses. This painting is misleading because Lee and Grant did not sit at the same table during the negotiations. The artist wanted to sit them together at the center of the image. This painting was created by Louis Mathieu Guillaume (1816-1892) This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Grant agreed to let the Confederates keep their horses for spring plowing.



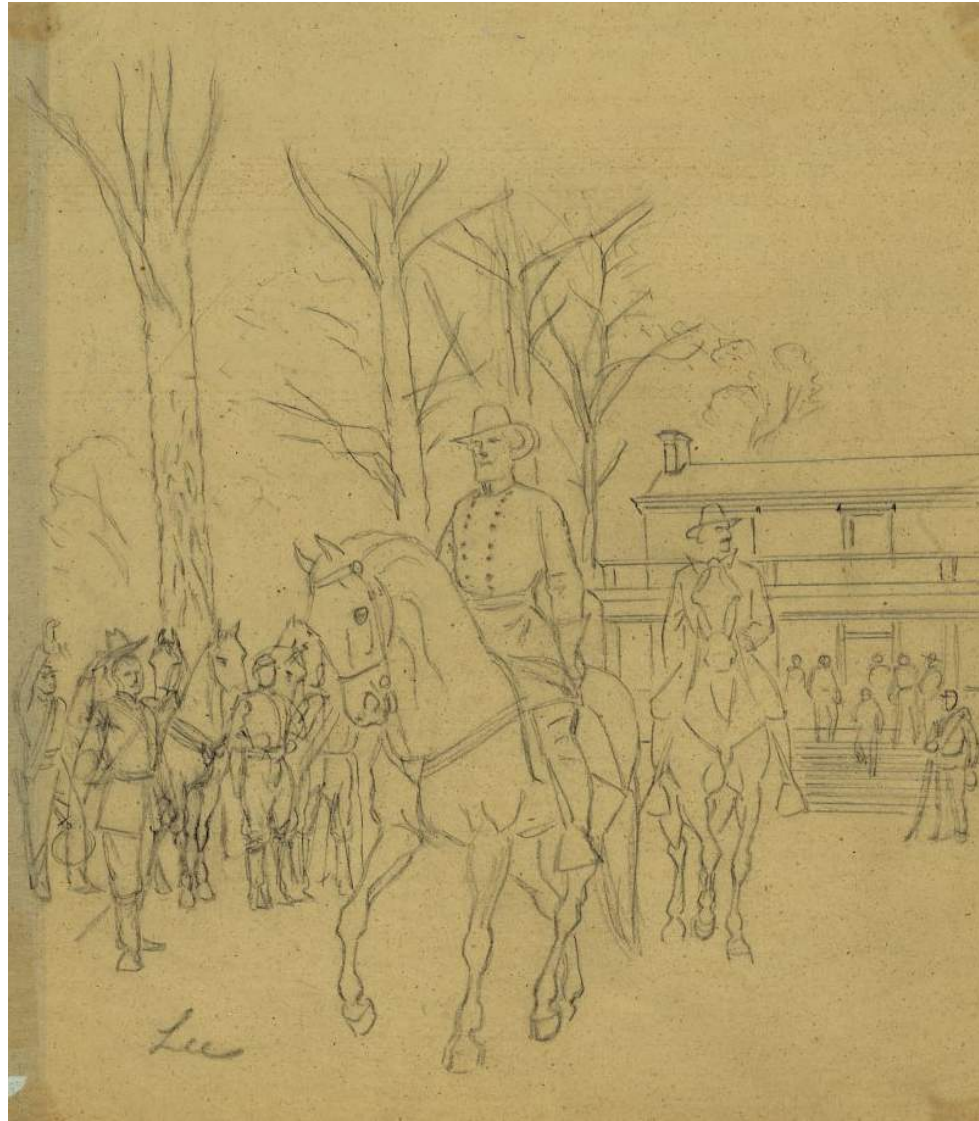
Also Confederate soldiers received a day's rations (food). This image is courtesy of psu.edu.

Grant permitted the Confederate officers to keep their pistols and swords, and released them on parole.



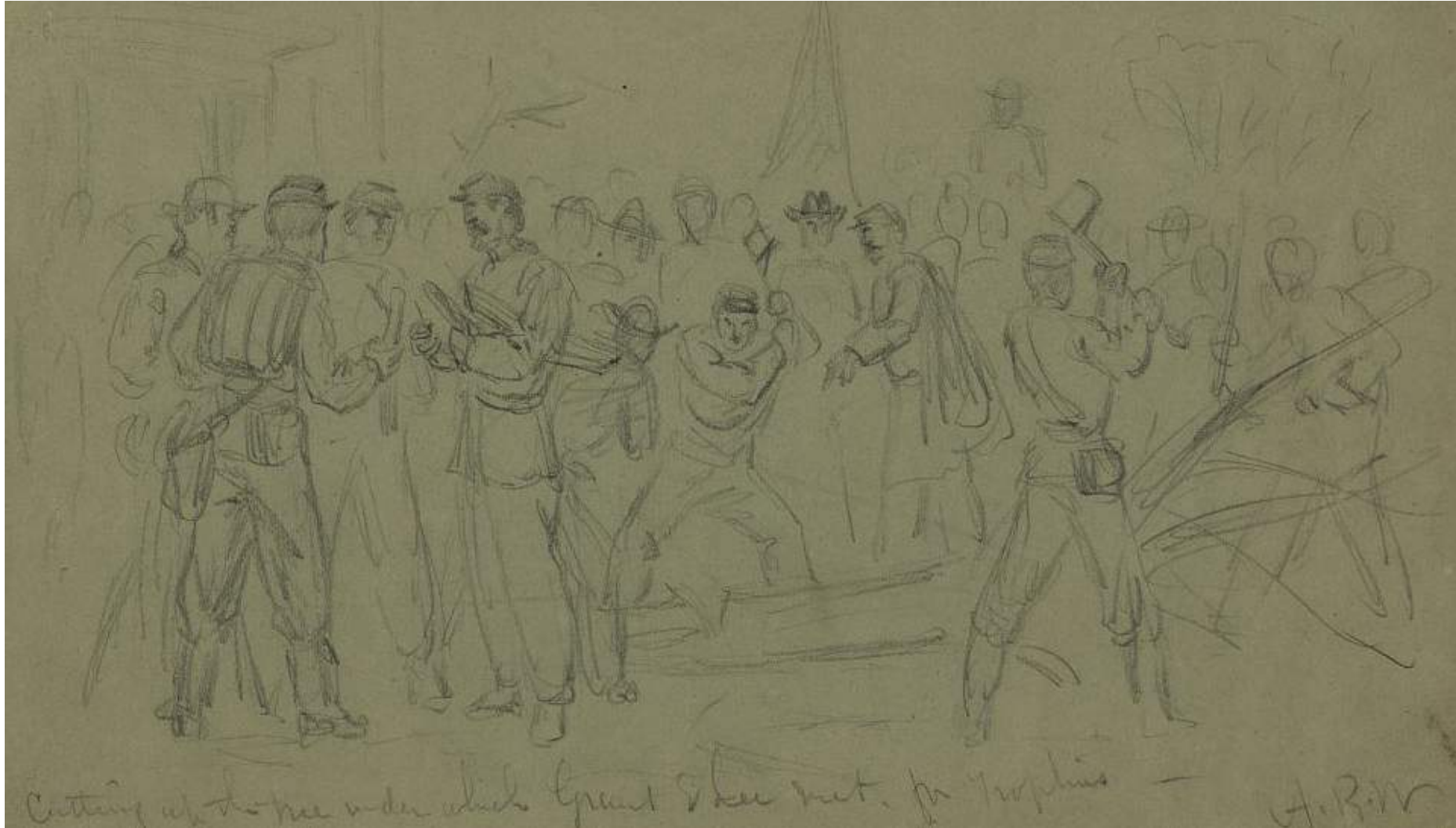
Lee agreed to the terms and the generals shook hands. Pistols and swords are known as "side arms." This painting is titled "The Surrender." It was painted by Keith Rocco and shows the known officers that were present during the meeting. This image is courtesy of The National Park Service.

**After the ceremony, Lee waited outside the house for his horse, and gazed towards the area where his defeated army waited for him.**



This image is titled "Robert E. Lee leaving the McLean House Following His Surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant." This image was created by Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828-1891) on April 9, 1865. This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

Later that afternoon, Grant heard his soldiers firing victory salutes. He knew how humiliated the Confederates felt and ordered the noise to stop.



“The war is over,” Grant said. “The Rebels are our countrymen again.” There were rumors that Grant and Lee had met under a tree to discuss the surrender, instead of in the McLean House. Some soldiers wanted a part of the tree as a souvenir. This image is titled “Cutting Up the Tree Under Which Grant and Lee Met, For Trophies.” This image was created by Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828-1891) on April 9, 1865. This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

Within a short time, the other Confederate armies also surrendered.



This image is titled "James Bennett's House, Where Johnston Surrendered to Sherman— Exterior View." This image was sketched by Theodore R. Davis for the May 27, 1865 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. This image is courtesy of [sonofthesouth.net](http://sonofthesouth.net).

# Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured in Georgia by Union soldiers as he tried to escape.



By June, 1865, the Civil war finally came to an end. This image is titled "Flight of President Jefferson Davis and His Staff, April 3, 1865." This image was created for the June 4, 1865 edition of the *Illustrated London News*. This image is courtesy of maps-charts.com.



On Good Friday, five days after Lee's surrender, President Lincoln decided to see a play in this building.



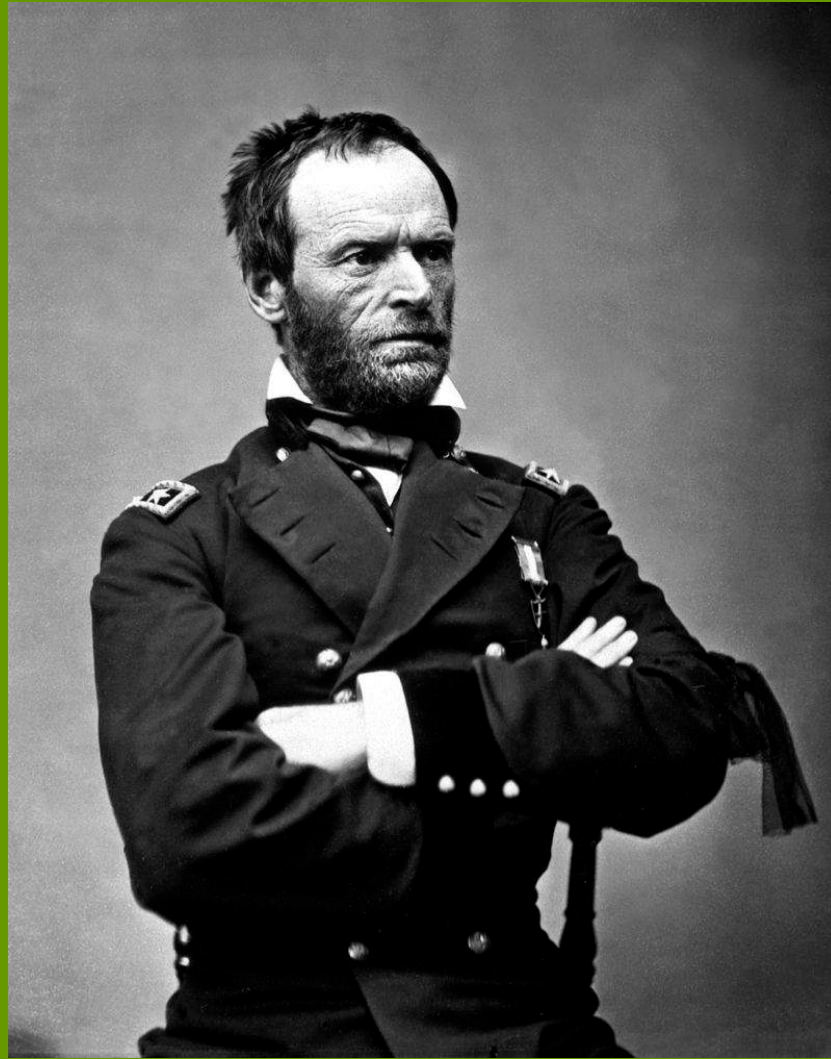
Northerners' happiness over their victory lasted only a brief time. After Lee's surrender, President Abraham Lincoln went to see a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. This image was taken in April, 1865. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

On April 14, 1865, while watching a play, President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a fanatical Confederate.



This image is titled "Assassination of President A. Lincoln." This image was created by Gibson and Company of Cincinnati, Ohio in 1870. From right to left are: John Wilkes Booth, Abraham Lincoln, Major Henry Rathbone, Mary Todd Lincoln, and Clara Harris. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

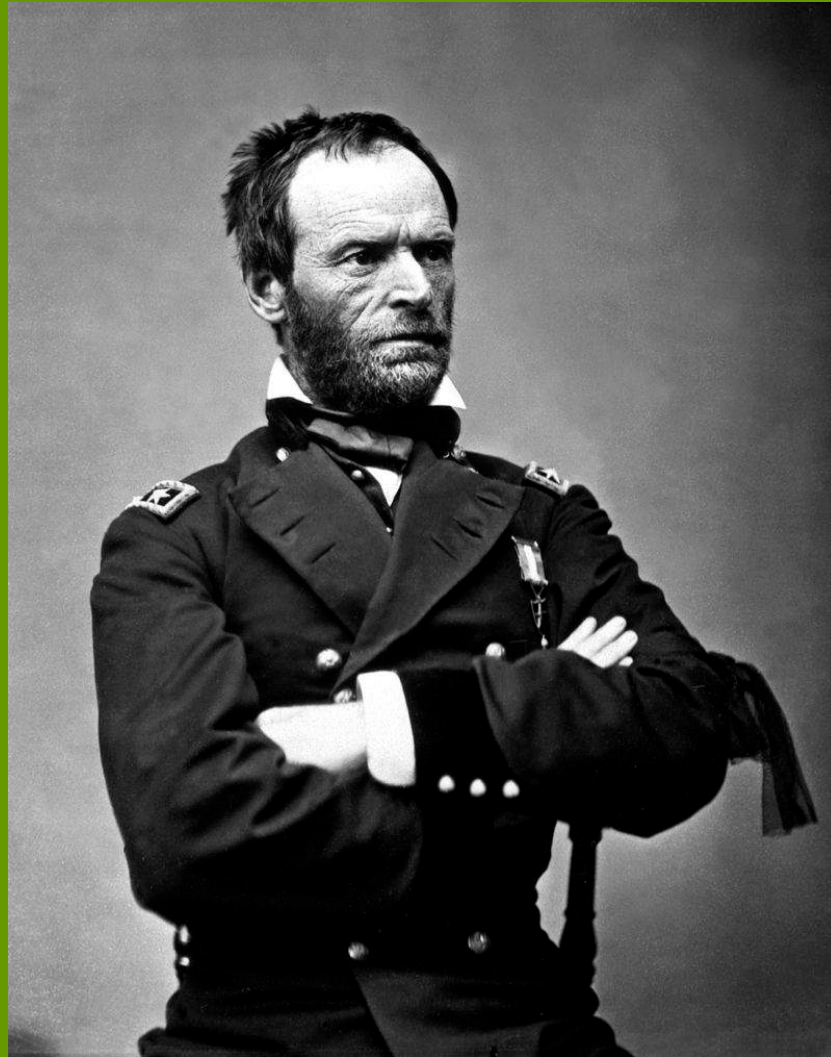
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