
PEOPLE TO KNOW

BIOGRAPHIES FOR CHAPTER FIFTEEN

As you read, consider three things:

1. Who were these people: lawyers, adventurers, generals, priests, monarchs, business people, etc.
2. What did these people do that was important in their time?
3. How did these people affect others in their time and possibly today?

Ulysses S. Grant

Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) served in the Mexican War but left the army afterwards. He struggled to support his family and re-enlisted in the army at the outbreak of civil war.

Grant was an offensive general who moved his army quickly and hit the enemy hard. His capture of Vicksburg in July 1863, gave control of the Mississippi River to the Union and split the Confederacy in two.

In 1864, President Lincoln appointed Grant to command all Union armies. Grant became the first effective Union general against Southern general Robert E. Lee. On April 9, 1865, Grant forced Lee to surrender his army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. Thus, the Confederacy quickly began to fall apart.

William T. Sherman

William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) served in the Mexican War but quit the army in 1853 to work at a bank in San Francisco. He re-enlisted in the army when the Civil War began.

Sherman was one of the best generals of the Civil War and worked closely with his good friend Ulysses S. Grant.

In 1864, Sherman intended to inflict maximum damage to the South. He marched his army through Georgia, tearing down cities, destroying military supplies, and burning crops. The 300 hundred-mile path of destruction

denied Confederate armies desperately needed supplies and destroyed the will of many Southerners to continue fighting.

Unable to stop Sherman, Confederate general Joseph E. Johnston surrendered most of the remaining Confederate forces on April 26, 1865.

Robert E. Lee

Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870) fought in the Mexican War where he was wounded at the Battle of Chapultepec. After the attack on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln offered Lee command of U.S. forces but Lee declined and, instead, took a position in the Confederate army.

In 1862, Confederate president Jefferson Davis appointed Lee to command the Army of Northern Virginia. Despite always being outnumbered and lacking supplies, Lee frequently caused great damage to his enemies.

Lee's first real loss at Gettysburg in July 1863 permanently weakened his army. When General Ulysses S. Grant took command of Federal forces, Lee found himself in almost constant retreat. With decreasing manpower and supplies, Lee eventually had to surrender to General Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

Jefferson Davis

Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) served in the Mexican War. Afterwards, he became a U.S. Senator for Mississippi, but quit to become president of the Confederate States in 1861.

The strong support of states' rights in the Confederacy led each state to act like an independent country.

Davis lacked the leadership ability to bring the Southern states

together and act as a single unit. This made it difficult for the Confederate armies to work together. Also, Davis tried to control every detail of the war leading to many arguments and mutual distrust with some of his top generals.

Davis was captured by Union forces on May 10, 1865, in Irwinville, Georgia. At the end of the war, many Southerners blamed Davis for everything bad that had happened to the South.

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was born in Kentucky to two illiterate parents. Having only about a year of formal schooling, Lincoln mostly educated himself. He became a successful Illinois lawyer in 1837. His election to the presidency in 1860 led to Southern secession and civil war.

During the war, Lincoln showed great leadership and patience in getting different people with different ideas to work together. Generally, Lincoln decided what the country needed to do, but he let his secretaries and generals decide how to do it. For the most part, Lincoln remained largely an unpopular president during his presidency.

In April 1865, Lincoln's patience and his ability to ignore criticism began to bring the war to an end. Unfortunately, while watching the play *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., the Southern sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth, shot and mortally wounded Lincoln on April 14. He died the next day.

George B. McClellan

George B. McClellan (1826-1885) was not just schooled in military matters, but he was also an engineer. Like many of his time, he served in the

Mexican War. After, he went to work for the Illinois Central Railroad. When war broke out between the states, McClellan re-enlisted and quickly moved up in rank.

In July 1861, Lincoln appointed George B. McClellan to head what became known as the Army of the Potomac. McClellan was a superb organizer and trainer of soldiers; however, in combat he worried more about losing than he did about winning. He made excuses not to move his army, he constantly claimed the enemy outnumbered him, and he hesitated to make important decisions.

After McClellan's failure to pursue Robert E. Lee after the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln removed McClellan from command.