

# South Side Story

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## The Battle of Sharpsburg

The Battle of Sharpsburg is one of the bloodiest of the war. We can only hope there will be none. Our young courage's boys fought bravely to hold off the strong northern army for 3 battles. The first battle took place on the Confederate's right. Our very own General Stonewall Jackson commanded the Confederates. They held off the vicious General Joe hooker and his army to win the battle.

“ On the forenoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>, the blue uniforms of the Federals appeared among the trees that crowned the heights on the eastern bank of the Sharpsburg. The number increased, and larger and larger grew the field of blue until it seemed to stretch as far as the eye can see, and from the tops of the tops of

the mountains down to the edges of the stream gathered the great army of McClellan.”

P v t .  
Alexander hunter, company A, 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry

The second battle of Sharpsburg took place in the center of General Lee's army. John B. Gordon commanded this army. General Edwin Sumner commanded the Federals. The Confederates let the Federals get within a few yards and then gave the order to open fire. The Unions general was hit at the beginning. The Federals attacked five more times. They could have crushed the Confederates but McClellan didn't give the order to attack. “ The third shell struck and killed my horse and bursting, blew him to pieces, knocked me

down, of course and tore off my right arm.”

Pvt. Ezra E. Stickle, Company A, 5<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry

The third battle occurred on the Confederates left. Robert Toombs commanded this army. Ambrose Burnside commanded the union army. The confederates fought bravely but were thrown back from the bridge. It looked like the Federals were going to win the battle. But right then the Confederate Light Division commanded by A.P Hill showed up and pushed the Federals back across the bridge and the Confederates won all three battles.



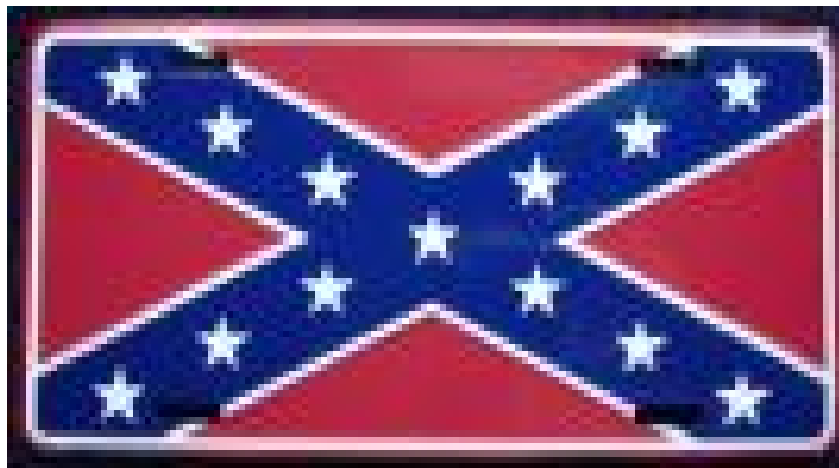
## A Great Leader

### “Stonewall Jackson”

*Thomas J. Jackson lived in Lexington from 1851-1861, while he was a professor of Natural Philosophy. (The study of nature and the physical universe before the advent of modern science), and instructor of artillery tactics at the Virginia Military Institute. “Stonewall” Jackson was the military general on the South side of the Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg. Next to Robert E. Lee himself, Thomas J. Jackson is the most revered of all Confederate commanders. Although Robert Lee and Stonewall Jackson were partners Stonewall Jackson was the greatest*

*hero of the Armed forces in the South. A graduate of West Point-1846-, he had served in the artillery in the Mexican War, earning two awards, before resigning to accept a professorship at the Virginia Military Institute. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he was commissioned a colonel in the Virginia forces and dispatched to Harpers Ferry where he was active in organizing the raw soldiers until relieved by Joe Johnson. Stonewall Jackson also had another nickname of “Old Blue Light”. In March 1862 Stonewall Jackson launched an attack on what he*

*thought was Union Rear guard at Kernstown. The invasion of Maryland, Stonewall Jackson was separated to capture Harpers Ferry and was promoted with Lee at Antietam.*



## The Inside Story

The Civil War was not needed to end slavery but in some ways it was. The South had the real reason for going to war because if they didn't they would have lost their slaves and it would have ruined the economic growth in the South. The North should have just left the South alone and let them have slavery so the South wouldn't have to go to the war and have tons of people die and suffer. The North should have just left

slavery alone and let the South do what they wanted because if they would've done that there wouldn't have been a war. The South had the right to have slavery because they needed it to help the economic system. The North had factories so the North didn't need slavery they had a lot more people and they worked factories, so it didn't take as much time or people to get the same amount of products. The North has it

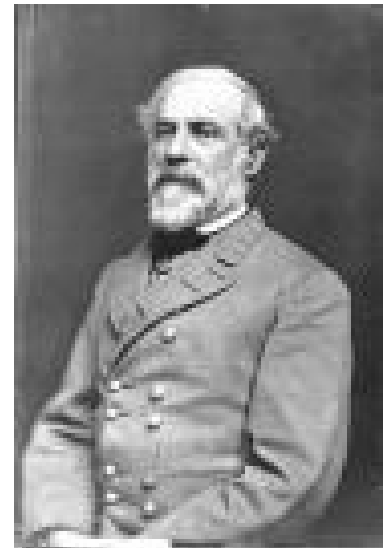
easy compared to the South. The North criticizes everything the South does because they think they're so much better and bigger than us. But really this is not true. The North is inferior and dim-witted. Just look at Lincoln he looks like an overgrown monster, I mean of course we were scared at first. The North underestimated the South's power, and said they would win the war. But they had another think coming!

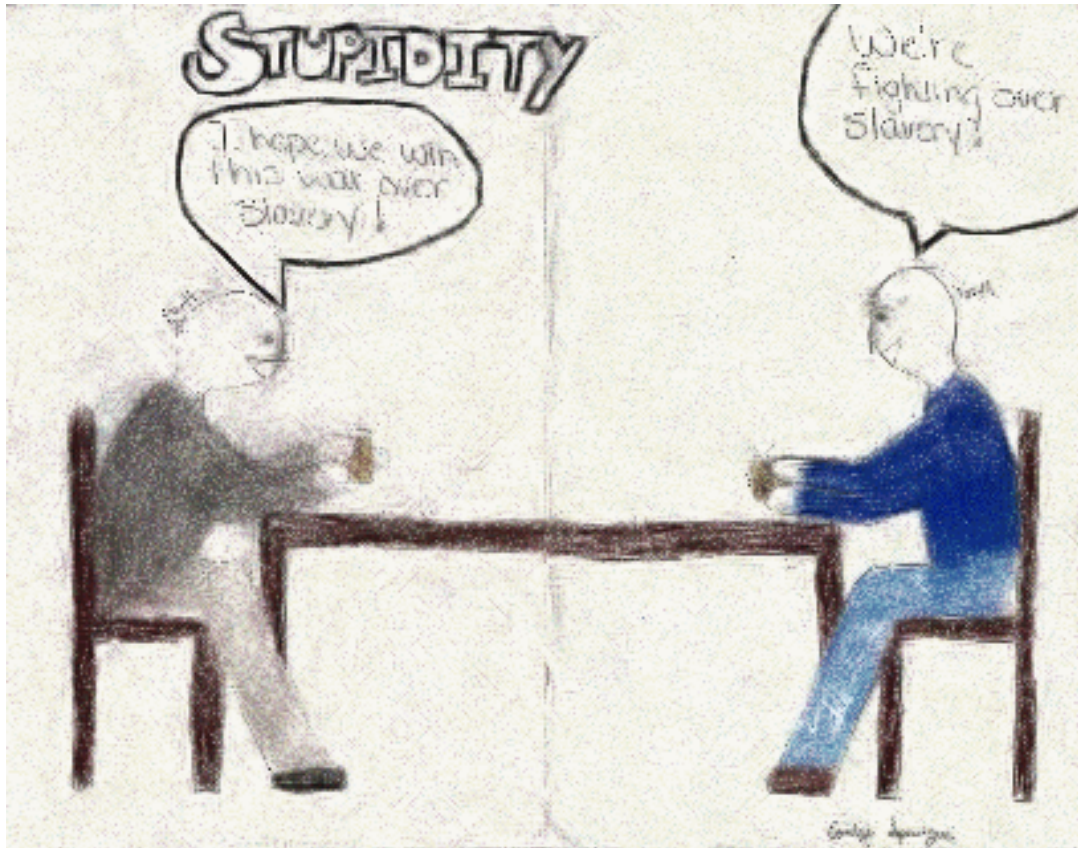


## Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee was born on January 19, 1807 in Westmoreland City, Virginia. He was the son of Henry Lee a Revolutionary war cavalry hero. When Lee was a young child his father was sent to debtor's prison. His father died in debtor's prison from wounds he got in a riot attempt in Baltimore. From then on Lee and his siblings were raised in Alexandria, Virginia widowed mother. Later in life Lee was appointed from the Military Academy and became corps adjutant, the major post of honor for a West Point cadet. Lee graduated second in his class in 1825 he was commissioned a 2d lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. Lee then married Mary Custis, Custis was the great granddaughter of Martha Washington. Lee was assigned to the staff of General Winfield Scott in the Mexican War. Robert E. Lee wounded and brevetted for heroism in the war, he became superintendent of the US Military Academy at West Point. Custis's health and the management of her estates were Lee's most important concern in the 1850's. Lee took leave while serv-

ing with the cavalry in Texas in 1856-1857. Lee was placed in command of marines that were sent to Harpers Ferry to take it back from John Brown and his followers while he was on leave. Lee was offered a position as a field commander of the armies in the US. He resigned from his position in the US Army and accepted Lincoln's offer on April 23, 1861. He was promoted to full general on August 31, 1861. In May 1862 he took command of Joseph E. Johnston's army. Lee and the Confederates won at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Lee was forced to change his plans after Union General McClellan got a copy of Lee's plans. Lee took a different route and took up a defensive position along Antietam Creek. Antietam Creek was the site of the Battle of Antietam-sharpsburg one of the bloodiest days of the war. Lee had 10,318 casualties less than the Union who had 2,108 dead, 10,293 injured or missing. Lee won the battle and retired to Virginia.





## Jefferson Davis: A great Leader

Jefferson Davis was born in Christian County, Kentucky on June 3, 1808. He soon married the daughter of Zachary Taylor around 1835. His wife died not too long after they got married. He soon remarried. He ran for U.S House of Representatives. He resigned in 1846. After he resigned he worked with his wife's father to prepare for the Mexican-American war. He also worked with Braxton Bragg with artillery work. He

served as a senator but he did not finish his term. He became an authoritarian federalist. His policies as an authoritarian federalist split the State governors like the state of Georgia's governor Joseph E. Brown. Davis resigned his commission in 1835 and became a planter to Vicksburg. When his government collapsed in May 1865, Davis was arrested and locked up for two years in Fortress Monroe. Although indicted for trea-

son, he was not brought to trial and was released in 1867. Davis died in New Orleans on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1889.