

# Decisive Battles

How the Union Prevails

# Fredericksburg

- Ambrose Burnside takes over for the too conservative McClellan
- Burnside tried to prove he was more aggressive and lead his men directly into a Confederate strong hold in Fredericksburg, VA
- 13,000 Union soldiers died/ 5,000 Confederate
- He will be replaced for his over aggressive tactics

# Chancellorsville

- Joe Hooker “Fighting Joe” replaces Ambrose
- Lee is outnumbered and decides to take a risk by dividing his force. He sends Jackson to try and outflank the Union forces and attack from behind. The strategy worked brilliantly.
- The Confederate Victory was short lived as Stonewall Jackson was shot on accident by one of his men at dusk, he dies days later
- “I have lost my right arm” -Lee

# Gettysburg

- Lincoln replaces Hooker with George Meade
- Lee felt he had the Union on the run. He wanted to raise the stakes by taking the battlefield to the North. He marches his force through Maryland into Pennsylvania.
- Why would this help the Southern cause?
  - Anti-War northerners would have further reason to push peace
  - Foreign countries might get involved if they see the South turning the tide
  - Boost soldier morale

# Gettysburg July 1-3 1863

- Confederate soldiers approached Gettysburg PA mostly looking for shoes
- Meade had a stronghold on a hill known as Cemetery Ridge
- 85,000 Union soldiers will go against 75,000 Confederates
- Fighting went on for two days with no real clear winner
- Lee orders Gen Pickett to initiate a major offensive attack on Cemetery Ridge
- Pickett leads 15,000 men across a mile of open field
- This is known as Picket's Charge
- Union soldiers unleashed artillery shells and rifle on the charging men. Only a few hundred actually made it up the hill. 7,500 were killed or wounded

# Results of Gettysburg

- 28,000 Confederate soldiers died
- 23,000 Union soldiers died
- “It is I who have lost this fight”-Lee
- Considered a major Union victory and the turning point in the war

# The War in the West



# Significance in the West

- Farragut's control of New Orleans and Grant's Siege of Vicksburg :
- allows Union to control Miss, cutting off AR, LA, and TX from rest of South
- further cuts off trade for South and opens trade in "Butternut" area of Ohio River Valley
- Stops any thought of Britain and France joining the South
- Coincides with win at Gettysburg, the South is crippled



# Sherman's March to the Sea



# Sherman's Total War



# Significance of Sherman's March

- Idea was to use **TOTAL WAR** crush Southern supplies and morale.
- Essentially saved lives as South will be forced into surrender in near future
- Sets up further animosity between North and South following the war