

# General Robert Lee And Civil War History – The Untold Story of the Confederate General

The Civil War, which took place between 1861 and 1865, was an important event in American history. The conflict between the Union and the Confederacy tore the nation apart, resulting in the loss of countless lives. General Robert E. Lee, one of the most renowned military leaders of the Confederate Army, played a significant role in shaping the outcome of the war. In this article, we will explore the life and experiences of General Robert E. Lee and shed light on his contribution to the Civil War.

## Early Life and Education

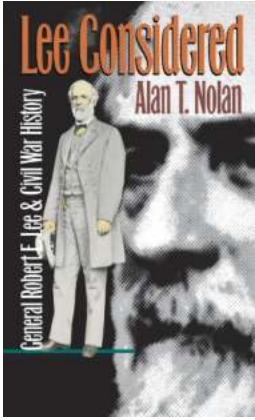
Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807, in Stratford Hall, Virginia. He was the son of General Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee III, a hero of the Revolutionary War. Growing up, Lee had the opportunity to witness his father's patriotism and love for the nation, which influenced his own aspirations to serve his country.

Lee attended the United States Military Academy, known as West Point, where he excelled academically and gained a reputation as an exceptional soldier. Graduating second in his class in 1829, Lee embarked on a military career that would later make him a prominent figure in the Civil War.

## Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History (Civil War America)

by Alan T. Nolan (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5



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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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## **Military Career Before the Civil War**

After graduating from West Point, Lee began his military career as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. Over the years, he showcased his leadership abilities and skills on various assignments, including supervising the construction of Fort Pulaski in Georgia.

Lee went on to serve as a captain during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), where he demonstrated tactical brilliance and earned the admiration of his superiors. His exceptional performance during the war led to his promotion to colonel and later to the rank of superintendent at West Point.

During his tenure as superintendent, Lee implemented significant improvements to the academy's curriculum, focusing on engineering and liberal arts. He played a crucial role in molding future military leaders, including many who would participate in the Civil War.

## **Role in the Civil War**

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, General Robert E. Lee faced a difficult decision. Despite his strong Unionist sentiments, he chose to side with his home

state of Virginia, which had seceded from the Union. This decision fundamentally changed the course of Lee's life and positioned him as a pivotal figure in the Confederate Army.

Lee's strategic brilliance earned him the trust and respect of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who appointed him as the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee's strategic vision and unyielding determination would soon mark him as one of the greatest military minds in American history.

General Lee won several crucial battles against the Union Army, including the Second Battle of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. His audacious moves and tactical maneuvers surprised and frustrated the Union commanders, allowing the Confederacy to maintain its momentum.

### **The Turning Point: Gettysburg**

The Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 was a crucial turning point in the Civil War and General Lee's career. Despite his strategic brilliance, Lee's army suffered a devastating defeat at the hands of the Union Army led by General George Meade. The three-day battle resulted in heavy casualties for both sides, but it significantly weakened the Confederate Army.

The loss at Gettysburg dealt a severe blow to Lee's reputation and marked a turning point in the war. From that moment, the Confederacy struggled to regain their earlier successes, and the tide began to turn in favor of the Union.

### **Surrender at Appomattox**

General Robert E. Lee's last stand came on April 9, 1865, when he surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The

surrender effectively ended the Civil War, giving hope for reunification and an eventual healing of the nation's wounds.

Following the war, Lee became a symbol of Southern resilience and honor. He focused his efforts on promoting reconciliation and rebuilding the country. Despite facing criticism and challenges during the Reconstruction era, Lee's commitment to healing continued to inspire many.

## **Legacy and Historical Significance**

General Robert E. Lee's role in the Civil War and his subsequent efforts to promote healing and reconciliation have left a significant mark on American history. Regardless of one's perspective on the war, Lee's military prowess and his post-war actions continue to be topics of study and debate.

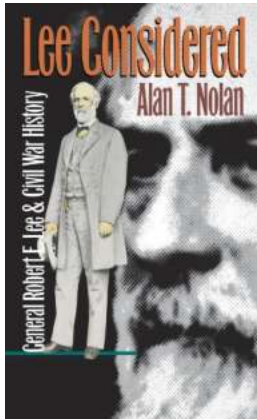
Today, General Robert E. Lee continues to be memorialized in various ways, with monuments and institutions dedicated to his memory. However, the discussion surrounding his legacy also raises important questions about the complexity of history and the difficult reconciliation of conflicting narratives.

General Robert E. Lee's life and career represent a fascinating chapter in Civil War history. From his early days at West Point to his strategic brilliance on the battlefield, Lee cemented his place as one of the most influential military leaders of his time. Though controversial and surrounded by conflicting narratives, his story is an important part of America's collective memory and reminds us of the complexities inherent in our shared history.

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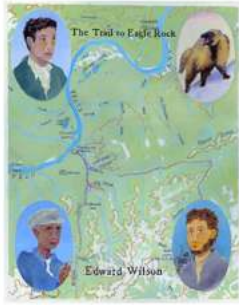
Of all the heroes produced by the Civil War, Robert E. Lee is the most revered and perhaps the most misunderstood. Lee is widely portrayed as an ardent antiseccessionist who left the United States Army only because he would not draw his sword against his native Virginia, a Southern aristocrat who opposed slavery, and a brilliant military leader whose exploits sustained the Confederate cause.

Alan Nolan explodes these and other assumptions about Lee and the war through a rigorous reexamination of familiar and long-available historical sources, including Lee's personal and official correspondence and the large body of writings about Lee. Looking at this evidence in a critical way, Nolan concludes that there is little truth to the dogmas traditionally set forth about Lee and the war.



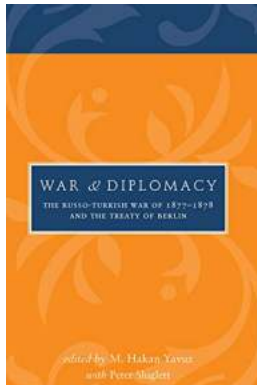
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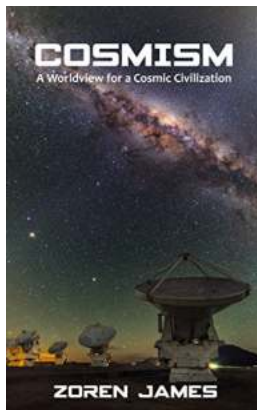
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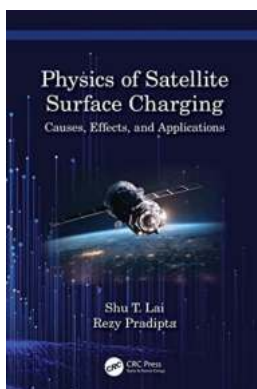
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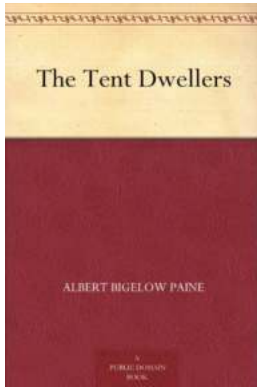
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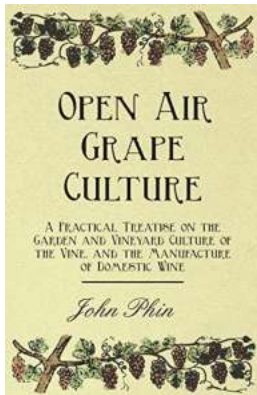
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