

# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ON VIDEO



**Civil War Documentaries, Movies and  
Dramatizations Available on Video  
in Kent Library**

*Southeast Missouri State University  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri*

## *DOCUMENTARIES*

### **The Civil War.**

**IM/VC/4728**

Increase Video, 1983. 24 min./color.

**Summary:** Presented from the points of view of descendents of opposing sides, this compendium of the Civil War offers a uniquely double-edged view of the causes of the war ... the Northern view that it was slavery, and the Southern view that it was the North's bid for money and power that motivated the struggle.

### **The Civil War. [Episode 1], 1861--the Cause.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4556**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4565**

99 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Discusses the causes of the war, Union vs. States' rights, John Brown at Harper's Ferry, Lincoln's election in 1861 and the firing on Fort Sumter.

### **The Civil War. Episode 2, 1862--a Very Bloody Affair.**

PBS Video, 1989

**IM/VC/4557**

PBS Video, 1994

**IM/VC/4566**

69 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Describes the political infighting that threatened to swamp Lincoln's administration. Follows McClellan's ill-fated campaign on the Virginia Peninsula.

### **The Civil War. Episode 3, 1862--Forever Free.**

PBS Video, 1989

**IM/VC/4558**

PBS Video, 1994

**IM/VC/4567**

76 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Charts the dramatic events that led to Lincoln's decision to set the slaves free, his wait for a Union victory before proclaiming emancipation. Describes Lee's invasion of Maryland and the Battle of Antietam Creek.

### **The Civil War. Episode 4, 1863--Simply Murder.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4559**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4568**

62 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Describes the Union disaster at Fredericksburg, Lee's victory at Chancellorsville but with the loss of Stonewall Jackson, and Grant's Siege of Vicksburg.

### **The Civil War. Episode 5, 1863--the Universe of Battle.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4560**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4569**

95 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Describes the Battle of Gettysburg, the fall of Vicksburg, the use of black troops, and the battles at Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

### **The Civil War. Episode 6, 1864--Valley of the Shadow of Death.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4561**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4570**

70 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Gives a biographical comparison of Grant and Lee. Chronicles the series of battles that pitted the two generals against each other from the Wilderness to Petersburg in Virginia.

### **The Civil War. Episode 7, 1864--Most Hallowed Ground.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4562**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4571**

72 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Describes the presidential campaign of 1864 and how Union victories at Mobile Bay, Atlanta and the Shenandoah Valley tilt the election to Lincoln.

### **The Civil War. Episode 8, 1865--War is All Hell.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4563**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4572**

69 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Covers Sherman's march to the sea, war in the heart of Georgia and the Carolinas, Lincoln's second inauguration, the fall of Petersburg and Richmond, and Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

### **The Civil War. Episode 9, 1865--the Better Angels of Our Nature.**

PBS Video, 1989.

**IM/VC/4564**

PBS Video, 1994.

**IM/VC/4573**

68 min./color with b&w sequences. CC.

**Summary:** Covers Carolinas, Lincoln's second inauguration, the fall of Petersburg and Richmond, Sherman's march to the sea, war in the heart of Georgia and the and Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

### **The Civil War. Background Issues (1820-1860)**

**IM/VC/5074**

Coronet/MTI Film & Video, 1983. 21 min./color.

**Summary:** In 1820, the U. S. has entered an era of good feeling, a time of growing pride and unity. But profound economic and social changes, abolitionist activity, and 40 years of territorial expansion have heightened tension over slavery, produced outbreaks of violence, and split political parties. The Dred Scott decision inflames the North, Lincoln's election threatens the South, and years of repeated compromise come to an end as South Carolina acts on the threat to secede.

**The Civil War. First Two Years.****IM/VC/5075**

Coronet/MTI Film &amp; Video, 1983. 20 min./color.

**Summary:** Uses animated maps, original graphic materials, and costumed re-enactments at authentic locales to trace the course of the Civil War from the firing on Fort Sumter to McClellan's victory at Antietam. Analyzes the relative strengths and weaknesses of both the North and the South, and discusses the political and economic issues of the period.

**The Civil War. 1863-1865.****IM/VC/5076**

Coronet/MTI Film &amp; Video, 1983. 21 min./color.

**Summary:** Analyzes the positions of the North and South midway in the Civil War, following the course of the conflict up to the assassination of President Lincoln. Uses dramatic re-enactments, combined with historical photographs and prints to trace the key events, including the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Lookout Mountain, Sherman's march to the sea, and Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.

**The Civil War. Postwar Period.****IM/VC/5077**

Coronet/MTI Film &amp; Video, 1983. 20 min./color.

**Summary:** Uses historical materials combined with live-action scenes to clarify problems faced by the Nation following the Civil War. Analyzes the period as years of crisis, bitterness, and lack of understanding. Discusses the conflict between the conservative President Johnson and the radical Congress, the carpetbag legislation and reconstruction, and the birth of protest groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

**Civil War Journal**

A&amp;E Home Video, c1993. color.

**1. Stonewall Jackson. Destiny at Fort Sumter.****IM/VC/6182**

**Summary:** First part focuses on the inspirational role of Stonewall Jackson. Second part describes the modest attack on Fort Sumter that began the Civil War. 100 min.

**2. The Monitor vs. the CSS Virginia. The Gray Ghost: John Singleton Mosby.****IM/VC/6183**

**Summary:** First part describes the clash of ironclad ships. Second part depicts Mosby whose development of guerilla warfare extended the conflict by six months. 100 min.

**3. The 54th Massachusetts. McClellan's Way.****IM/VC/6184**

**Summary:** First part traces the 1st African-American Union regiment in the Civil War. Second part examines the career of General George McClellan. 100 min.

**4. Alexander Gardner: War Photographer. John Brown's War.****IM/VC/6185**

**Summary:** First part describes Gardner chronicling the war, especially the assassination of Lincoln. Second part views Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry. 100 min.

**5. The Battle of 1st Bull Run. Pickett's Charge.****IM/VC/6186**

**Summary:** First part shows 1st Bull Run as an indication of the human cost of the war. Second part describes Pickett's futile strategy. 100 min.

**6. Days of Darkness: The Gettysburg Civilians. Banners of Glory. West Point Classmates--Civil War Enemies.****IM/VC/6187**

**Summary:** First part describes the Battle of Gettysburg and aftermath as experienced by civilians. Second part describes the emotional binding force of regimental flags. Third part traces the shared military background of generals educated at West Point. 150 min.

## **Civil War Journal II**

A&E Home Video, c1994. color.

### **1. Robert E. Lee. Sherman and the March to the Sea. IM/VC/6188**

**Summary:** First part focuses on Southern commander Robert E. Lee. Second part discusses Sherman's campaign as either tactical genius or barbaric act. 100 min.

### **2. General Joshua L. Chamberlain. Lincoln and Gettysburg.**

**IM/VC/6189**

**Summary:** First part focuses on Joshua L. Chamberlain, a professor, who was wounded six times and accepted the Confederate troop surrender at Appomattox. Second part describes the astronomical casualties at Gettysburg and Lincoln's memorial to them. 100 min.

### **3. The Battle of Fredericksburg. Battlefield Medicine. IM/VC/6190**

**Summary:** In the first part Union delays and blunders give the Rebels new hope at Fredericksburg. In the second part medical science is pushed to the limit in the war against wounds and disease. 100 min.

### **4. Frederick Douglass. Reporting the War. IM/VC/6191**

**Summary:** First part focuses on the ex-slave, abolitionist and journalist, Frederick Douglass. Second part describes how eyewitness accounts brought home the war. 100 min.

### **5. The Battle of Chattanooga. Women at War. IM/VC/6192**

**Summary:** First part focuses on the battle to control the gateway to the deep South and transportation hub, Chattanooga. Second part describes the role of women in the war as soldiers, spies, nurses and providing support. 100 min.

### **6. Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Battle of Franklin & Nashville. Zouaves!**

**IM/VC/6193**

**Summary:** First part focuses on the ruthless career of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Second part describes the desperate Confederate campaign to draw Sherman out of Atlanta. Third part depicts the colorful elite soldiers. 150 min.

## **The Civil War Photographers.**

**IM/VC/5228**

Parade Video, c1989. 43 min./color and b&w.

**Summary:** Featuring the photographs of Matthew B. Brady, Alexander Gardner, George N. Barnard, George S. Cook, Timothy H. O'Sullivan, James Gardner, Julian Vannerson, James Gibson and many more.

## **The Civil War: the Anguish of Emancipation.**

**IM/VC/4616**

Learning Corp. of America, 1972. 27 min./color.

**Summary:** Focuses on the period of Lincoln's administration when he was considering the strategy for the Emancipation proclamation and the Battle of Antietam. Explores the constitutional, social, and economic background of slavery and Lincoln's dilemma in dealing with the problem. From series: The Shaping of the American Nation.

## **The Divided Union: the Story of the American Civil War 1861-1865.**

Home Vision, c1987. color.

### **1. Forward to Sumter.**

**IM/VC/4953**

**Summary:** What caused the American Civil War? Take a personal journey through history to see that the split between North and South was not a surprise -- the U. S. had been evolving into two separate societies and cultures ever since independence. 52 min.

### **2. Bloody Stalemate.**

**IM/VC/4954**

**Summary:** The war begins in earnest as military preparations and skirmishes evolve into real battles and real blood, but Confederate commanders fail to exploit their initial stunning victory at First Manassas. With the blockade of Southern river and seaboard ports and the Union's decisive victory at Shiloh, both sides soon realize the conflict will be long and costly. 52 min.

### **3. High Tide of the Confederacy.**

**IM/VC/4955**

**Summary:** The going gets tougher for everyone in 1862, even for President Lincoln. His military commanders are squabbling, his political popularity is waning, and the North seems unable to exploit its industrial and numerical superiority. 51 min.

### **4. Total War.**

**IM/VC/4956**

**Summary:** As the South is being worn down by means both fair and foul, the war takes its toll not only on the battlefield but also on the day-to-day life of both Northern and Southern civilians. Share the experiences of soldiers and civilians through their songs, diaries, poems, paintings, memoirs, and letters. 51 min.

### **5. Conclusion at Appomattox.**

**IM/VC/4957**

**Summary:** This dramatic saga does not end with General Lee's surrender to General Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. President Lincoln is assassinated only five days later, and the struggle for reunification had just begun. 55 min.

## **Dr. Toer's Amazing Magic Lantern Show.**

**IM/VC/7307**

American Social History Productions, c1987. 21 min./b&w with color sequences.

**Summary:** Takes a look at the Magic Lantern Show of J.W. Toer, a Baptist minister and former slave who traveled the rural South in the years following the Civil War. The show featured music and stories of the black people before, during and after the Civil War. Especially focuses on the misrepresentation by the North of the former slaves and the progress of Reconstruction.

## **A Firebell in the Night.**

**IM/VC/4654**

Time-Life Video, 1972. 51 min./color.

**Summary:** Discusses the causes and miseries of the Civil War and the racial wounds that still trouble the United States. From series: America, a personal history of the United States; no. 6.

## **Guns of the Civil War. Volume 1, A Greater Moral Force.**

**IM/VC/6179**

Monterey Home Video, c1993. 60 min./color with b&w sequences.

**Summary:** History of the weapons used in the Civil War.

## **Guns of the Civil War. Volume 2, Measure for Measure.**

**IM/VC/6180**

Monterey Home Video, c1993. 60 min./color with b&w sequences.

**Summary:** History of the weapons used in the Civil War.

**Guns of the Civil War. Volume 3, Against the Thunderstorm.**

**IM/VC/6181**

Monterey Home Video, c1993. 60 min./color with b&w sequences.

**Summary:** History of the weapons used in the Civil War.

**Images of the Civil War: the Paintings of Mort Kunstler.** **IM/VC/4230**

Lou Reda Productions, 1994. 50 min./color with b&w sequences.

**Summary:** Combines the paintings of Mort Kunstler with live battle re-enactments to provide a dramatic picture of the most important event in American history.

**Ironclads: the Monitor & the Merrimac.**

**IM/VC/1725**

Atlas Video, c1988. 30 min./color with b&w sequences.

**Summary:** Tells the story of the two astonishing vessels that fought the most memorable naval battle of the Civil War, and revolutionized maritime warfare.

**The Jackson Years: Toward Civil War.**

**IM/VC/4614**

Learning Corporation of America, 1971. 27 min./color.

**Summary:** Discusses the years Andrew Jackson spent in office. Points out that although he fought the national bank, raised troops against South Carolina, and vetoed more congressional bills than all the Presidents combined, he remained inactive on slavery, the one issue that would lead to war. From series: The Shaping of the American Nation.

**Lincoln.**

**IM/VC/5693+**

PBS Home Video, c1994. 4 video set (232 min.)/color and b&w.

**Summary:** Captures the drama of Lincoln in his own words. Drawn from letters, speeches and diaries, Lincoln's words are brought to life by the voice of actor Jason Robards. Uses historic black and white photographs to portray Lincoln and the period of the Civil War in American history.

**The 125th Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Monocacy: the Battle That Saved Washington.**

**IM/VC/3787**

Video Vision, 1990. 59 min./color.

**Summary:** "On July 8th and 9th, 1989, over 2000 Civil war re-enactors encamped near the Monocacy River and recreated the middle states of the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign and the Battle of Monocacy. This video documents the historic portrayal of these events by the participating infantry, cavalry, artillery and civilians."

**Shiloh.**

**IM/VC/4788**

BFA Educational Media, 1975. 16 min./color.

**Summary:** Recounts the stalemated Battle of Shiloh fought at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., as a grim example of the misery and futility of the American Civil War.

**Songs of the Civil War.****IM/VC/3786**

Sony Music Video, c1991. 60 min./color. CC.

**Summary:** Various groups perform songs which became popular during the Civil War.*MOVIES & DRAMATIZATIONS***Birth of a Nation.****IM/VC/596**

Festival Films, 1983. Silent with musical score and English subtitles. 106 min./b&amp;w.

Videocassette release of the 1915 silent motion picture. **Summary:** Focuses on two families, one northern and one southern, and conflicts within U. S. society during Civil War and Reconstruction.**Glory.****IM/VC/3082**

RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video, c1990. 122 min./color. CC.

Videocassette release of the 1989 motion picture by Tri-Star Pictures. **Summary:** Two idealistic young Bostonians lead the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, America's first Black regiment in the Civil War.**Gone With the Wind.****IM/VC/1962+**

MGM/UA Home Video, 1989. 239 min./color. CC.

Videocassette release of the 1939 motion picture by Selznick International Pictures.

**Summary:** Set during the American Civil War, this story focuses on the lives and loves of Southerners, and the hardships they endured.**Little Women.****IM/VC/5139**

MGM/UA Home Video, 1985. 116 min./b&amp;w.

Videocassette release of the 1933 motion picture by RKO Radio Pictures. **Summary:** Story of four sisters who grew up together in Massachusetts during the Civil War. Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott.**An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge.****IM/VC/5449**

Video Yesteryear, c1983. 29 min./b&amp;w.

Videocassette release of the 1962 motion picture by Marcel Ichac and Paul de Roubaix.

**Summary:** Dramatizes the final thoughts of a condemned man as he stands on a bridge awaiting hanging by Union soldiers.**The Private History of a Campaign that Failed.****IM/VC/4622**

MCA Home Video, Inc., 1984. 89 min./color.

Videocassette release of the 1981 motion picture by The Great Amwell Company, Inc., Nebraskans for Public Television, Inc. **Summary:** Dramatizes Mark Twain's tale based on his two weeks as a Missouri militiaman in the Civil War and his later antiwar statement entitled The war prayer.

**The Red Badge of Courage.****IM/VC/4775**

MGM/UA Home Video, c1985. 70 min./b&amp;w.

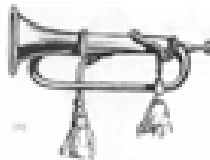
Videocassette release of the 1951 motion picture by Loewe's Incorporated. **Summary:** The story of Henry Fleming and his initiation into manhood as a Union Army recruit during the Civil War. Based on the novel by Stephen Crane.

**Uncle Tom's Cabin.****IM/VC/3834**

Xenon Home Video, c1987. 120 min./color.

Videocassette release of the 1968 motion picture by Hallmark Roadshow Attraction.

**Summary:** Harriet Beecher Stowe's nineteenth-century classic story of the pre-Civil war south. Peace-loving Tom is forced to submit to his sadistic master, the evil Simon Legree. Helpless slaves--raped, tortured, and humiliated--are eventually driven to rebel against their wicked oppressors.



*Compiled by J. Robert Willingham*  
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