

## Sherman's March to the Sea

- General Sherman takes his army and begins destroying everything from Atlanta to Savannah, Ga in 1864.
- This was done without consent of Congress, but approval from Grant
- Sherman promised President Lincoln a surprise birthday gift and wrote the following to him on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1864
  - o "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the City of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty guns and plenty of ammunition, also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton."
  - o On December 26, the president replied in a letter: "Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift – the capture of Savannah. When you were leaving Atlanta for the Atlantic coast, I was anxious, if not fearful; but feeling that you were the better judge, and remembering that 'nothing risked, nothing gained' I did not interfere. Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours; for I believe none of us went farther than to acquiesce. And taking the work of Gen. Thomas into the count, as it should be taken, it is indeed a great success. Not only does it afford the obvious and immediate military advantage; but, in showing to the world that your army could be divided, putting the stronger part to an important new service, and yet leaving enough to vanquish the old opposing force of the whole – Hood's army – it brings those who sat in darkness, to see a great light. But what next? I suppose it will be safer if I leave Gen. Grant and yourself to decide. Please make my grateful acknowledgements to your whole army – officers and men."
- From Savannah, Sherman marched north in the spring through the Carolinas, intending to complete his turning movement and combine his armies with Grant's against Robert E. Lee. After a successful two-month campaign, Sherman accepted the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston and his forces in North Carolina on April 26, 1865.

## The Emancipation Proclamation

- Feeling confident that the war was now going in favor of the Union, President Lincoln officially announces that all persons being held as slaves were free as of Jan 1, 1863
- This also allowed for the creation of ex-slave military units.

## General Grant Takes Control

- Major victories include Shiloh, Vicksburg and Sherman's March to the Sea
- Considered Lincoln's most aggressive general and is promoted to top position in 1864.
- Institutes a policy of "total war" and "multiple attacks" at once on the south which ultimately led to the surrender of General Lee.
- Grant refuses to let the enemy surrender until he is ready for them to surrender earning him the nickname "unconditional surrender" Grant.