



The Top 5 Greatest Union Generals: Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, George H. Thomas, George Meade, and Phil Sheridan

Charles River Editors

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Includes pictures of each general, and important people, places, and events in their lives.

Includes an original introduction for each general.

Includes a Table of Contents.

Includes a bibliography for each general.

Despite the fact that the Civil War began over 150 years ago, Americans continue to be fascinated by the Civil War icons who made the difference between victory and defeat in the war's great battles.

While all eyes were fixed on the Eastern theater at places like Manassas, Richmond, the Shenandoah Valley and Antietam, Ulysses S. Grant went about a steady rise up the ranks through a series of successes in the West. Grant eventually came east to face Lee in 1864, bringing one of his most capable generals, Phil Sheridan, with him to lead the cavalry. Ultimately, Grant and Sheridan forced Lee's surrender in 1865, ensuring they'd be forever recognized two of the Union's greatest generals.

Synonymous with barbarity in the South, William Tecumseh Sherman is lauded as a war hero in the North, and modern historians consider him the harbinger of total war. Military historian B. H. Liddell Hart famously declared that Sherman was "the first modern general."

While there is a never ending stream of acclaim going to generals like Grant, Lee, and Sherman, General George H. Thomas has managed to fly under the radar. Thomas scored almost inconceivable successes at Missionary Ridge, Franklin, and Nashville. Thomas also skillfully fought at Perryville, Stones River, and in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, but he's best remembered as "The Rock of Chickamauga". Thomas' heroics prevented the destruction of the Union army at that battle and allowed it to successfully retreat to Chattanooga.

Ironically, one of the generals who often escapes the attention of Civil War fans who compile the lists of best generals is the man who won the war's most famous battle, George G. Meade (1815-1872). In fact, Meade has become a perfect example of how the generals who did not self-promote themselves and write memoirs after the war had their reputations suffer in the ensuing decades. When people think of Appomattox Court House, they think of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. Few remember that the commander of the Army of the Potomac at the end of the Civil War was not Grant but Meade.

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