The Untold Civil War

SUMMARY KEYWORDS
civil war, soldiers, home, day, horses, arlington, santa claus, years, book, union, war, man, butler, lincoln, called, virginia, richmond, national geographic society, story, fighting

SPEAKERS
Mark Wetherington, Question, Bud Roberston

Mark Wetherington 00:00
Our speaker today is distinguished alumni Professor of History. James Dr. Bob Robertson, James Robertson. He's a native and author of more than 20 books. He is born in Danville, Virginia. Those books include the award winning studies, Civil War, America becomes one a nation, general AP Hill and soldiers blue and gray. Many of you remember his former lecture here to the Filson audience on his award winning book, Stonewall Jackson, and actually won eight national awards, and well used as the base for Ted Turner's mega movie Gods and generals. Professor Robertson is the recipient of every major award given in the civil war field and a lecturer of national acclaim. He is probably more in demand as a speaker before Civil War groups than anyone else. He holds a PhD degree from Emory University and honorary doctorates from Randolph Macon college and Shenandoah University. He is presently and alumni Distinguished Professor as I mentioned, one of 10 such honorees among Virginia Tech's 2200 member of faculty, and he is also executive director of the Virginia City Center for the Civil War studies created by the university and 1999 Dr. Robertson, thank you very much for coming to the Filson again

Bud Roberston 01:36
thank you so much, I did not expect this size crowd this is fine at noon, I thought surely, if you wanted them all you at home Babe and yourselves, but I appreciate your coming out for this presentation this year. Today well, and it's good to see Tech alumni anywhere at any time. So I'm especially grateful for them and, and to dog and Ruth and bone for their hospitality last night. I'm going to make this rather quick because I want our plane to catch at four o'clock to get back home. And this weather isn't cooperating much at all noise are the security lines at the Louisville airport. I don't know why those lines here are so long. But they always all when I come into Louisville. I'm a maverick in my field. I am not a military historian, I do not get sexually allows IT people shooting and killing each other, and bottles and things such as that. I'm a social historian. And I'm interested in people, especially emotions. And for those of you had me who had me in class, and I know many of you are here. I've always thought that you unless you understand the emotions of the Civil War, you'll never understand the war itself. Because it was a very strong feeling. A strong feeling because basically, the population at that
time of 27 and a half million white Americans in 1860, over half were under the age of 21. I spent 50 years teaching that age group. And I know how these kids feel they think in extremes. They don't like they love. They don't dislike they hate in on a college board or college girl get in heat and they come together and quickly get married. Now they got a problem. Now they got to start liking each other. And that's why the divorce rates 50%. And this country you see they pass by the liking stage, they went right into the passionate stage and have to back up and that backing up can be costly. And especially was this so in a war where it was a war of us against us. And civil wars breed a, a terribly bitter struggle, because the opponents know one another. And they know and in knowing one another speaking the same language having the same background, the same faith and etc. You can hate more intensely than that mod made reference to the fact that I was a football official. For many, many years. I worked 16 years in the Atlantic Coast Conference. But our escaping it was a small college game. At Hampden Sydney college. And the coach at Hampton, Sydney and I grew up together and I know what bugged him and he knew what bugged me. And so we we put on some great halftime shows down now and he comes storming out for y'all get married, just always had down and I'd say Coach, if you throw that hat up, it's kind of my yellow flag is going to come down with it and just this kind of thing. So in a civil war expect very, very deep emotions. In fact, when South Carolina left the union, one of its favorite sons Federal Judge James Pettigrew, and Pettigrew is ffsc. Down in South Carolina, but when South Carolina seceded, Judge Pettigrew, who was a federal judge, said, My God, it won't work. South Carolina is too small to be a nation and too big to be an insane asylum. and it didn't work. But it had to be a bloody contest for four years nonetheless because that was no space, no room, no adjustment for the one thing that held us together then, and the one thing that holds this nation together now a sense of compromise, it was missing, now and then, but it was missing very badly back then, because the two sides were fighting for absolutes. One is fighting for union, the union, the other is fighting for independence. And there's no midway point. So one side must conquer, and the other side must be conquered. And it seems to me that no matter how long you studied the silver wire there is always going to be something new to be discovered. A few years back the the other series of weekly radio broadcasts for NPR, they were a little four minute vignettes, in which I talked about human things, emotional things, not one of which had anything to do with the outcome of the war. But they put a human element to it. And they ran for seven years. So I assume that they will love a popular one. And then, when National Geographic Society decided to do one book, for the sesquicentennial, the 100 and 50th anniversary of the war, the Vice President of the National Geographic Society, whom I did not know was a friend of mine, suggested the book and this is what this is what it is, the untold Civil War, which stresses human emotions and actions is filled with about 300 Illustrations is only National Geographic, I can can do it. It's an absolutely beautiful book, I had no nothing to do with it. With the beauty of it, I just simply wrote, we wrote the vignettes that, that appear in it, and when it's done and extremely, extremely well, because people buy it, because it's human. And this is my complaint against my my colleagues in the history field. I don't think many historians or history professors, okay, my, my, my history, they can't remember the human element. They're looking at demographics, and battle maps, inanimate things, when history is basically human behavior. And as a result of this, this book is done extremely well. I have, this thing weighs three pounds, I bought a copy with me, which I want to sell to anyone who wants it afterwards. And if later on, you want to know if you're interested in buying it when I get through, just give me a check for $46. And I'll mail it to you inscribe and everything else. I'm just not a lot of these things around. Well, to find these little, little small, unique things. We decided to us as a dust jacket, something we thought nobody had ever seen a group photograph of Confederate soldiers. So we count the bowels of the Library of Congress a 10,000 photographs by Matthew boy, and others, looking for just some obscure photograph and we found one, and it was so messed up. So old with age and desert in disrepair, that we couldn't even tell how many
soldiers were in it. Well, that was when I made a major mistake. And the major mistake was to underestimate what the National Geographic Society photo lab people can do. And I watched this thing come alive as this kid was sitting in front of this three sided console with 5000 buttons on it, cleaning this photograph up. What was disgusting, was he's probably 24 years old. just disgusting. And now look at it. It looks like it was taken yesterday. Which village is ruined when the original intent of having an obscure photograph? Well, let me as Paul Harvey used to like to say, but that's not the end of the story. This cover went on to have a wonderful career. About two weeks after the book came out. I got an email from Mrs. Schroeder in Colorado, and she said, How did you find this photograph of my great uncle? We knew it existed. We've been looking for years for it. You can't miss him. His name is Eli Shrieve. He's a tall man in the second row. And he served in the 53rd, Tennessee. So I thought well, at least we know this up and boy. And then about a month later, I get another email from Mr. Anderson in Pennsylvania, who said oh my goodness, I bought your book and I was shocked to see my great grandfather on the cover. His name was George Anderson. He's wearing the light collared shirt seated. He was in the 86, Pennsylvania. All right. 53rd, Tennessee 86, Pennsylvania. If they both were correct, this is the only time in the Civil War when they stopped fighting to have a blue photograph made. Now they are so somebody is wrong. But as I said the vignettes Not history making or history breaking that us human. And I want to share a few with you today. There's a story of grace Vidal. She was 10 years old. She lived in upstate New York. And the 1860 presidential election came along and she looked at the candidates, and being 10 years old, she sent Abraham Lincoln a letter. And he said, basically do Mr. Lincoln. I think we're both you'll agree with me that you are a very ugly man. And I've been talking to my friends and we think that if you grew a beard, it would hide half of your face and make you more appealing to the voters. And Lincoln thought about instead, okay, and he did, and grace Vidal changed the face of history with the man who became our greatest president. That was a story of George Pickett, the great suffering hero of Pickett's Charge fame at Gettysburg. Several months later, he executed 22 disorders at one time in North Carolina. He has a story where even the pious Stonewall Jackson became hopelessly intoxicated. One cold winter afternoon. But one cannot look at human behavior in the Civil War without encountering the humor of Abraham Lincoln. It was always out because it was his necessary crutch. To overcome what modern physicians would call chronic depression. He was always going into low moods, sometimes lasting a week at a time. But a lot of his humor was self deprecating, and which just makes his grand statue and American history all the more laid in 1863 and refusing a man who wanted to pay us to go to Richmond, Lincoln stated, I would gladly give you the pass if it would do any good. But in the last two years, I have given to 200,000 soldiers have passed and not one of them has managed to get to Richmond yet. The face of the Civil War is not working. I'm pushing three o'clock nothing is working. Why is my technician I have trouble cutting on lights. So you give me something like this. Trouble starts we're still at three o'clock. Oh, I look closer. Here's Mr. Lincoln. He still grow in His grace Fidel B. Here's Mr. Lincoln and 1861. Four years later. I don't know what I'm doing wrong. We're just not clicking. Oh, I got the wrong click I'm sorry. Four years later, this is what he looked like. 1861 1865 So for Waukegan, it killed him. Even his wife admitted in March of 65 that he will not live so a second time, though he paid for it with his wife. For the union that we now love and too often take for granted. No story of army life well in the 1860s would be complete without mentioning pet pets. Many regiments on both sides had mascots. I'm an animal lover. So I took this very quickly. They ran these lab animals these mascots ran the gauntlet of the animal kingdom. Now what dogs and cats of course, were to possums, a raccoon, half dozen chickens, a pig to buy a house. And the Mississippi regiment went off to war with a camel that didn't last too long. If we all know about General George Custer and his flamboyant ways, but if you ever see a picture of custody and camp, there's going to be adults with him. He slept with dogs, he loved dogs, with a passion that only a dog lover can understand. You had the most famous of all the wartime mascots was a male bald
eagle. The eighth Wisconsin infantry left for war with an eagle it donated by Chippewa Indians, and soldiers named the bird old and in some ways, Eagle was a pitiful sight. A strong coil bound him to a perch atop a William wooden pole. His wings were continually clip to keep him from flying away. Nevertheless, the Eagles fame spread throughout the Union armies in the western theater. He became first a curiosity and then an inspiration. The eighth Wisconsin became known as the eagle regiment. And old Dave actually took part in three dozen different engagements. This is an artist's rendition of old Dave up there screeching and howling and flapping his wings and fun with the flag as the regiment charged in the battle. The bird never received the battle one which is incredible, because we know from soldiers whiting's Going favorites we're trying our best to kill him to take away that one mobile bill or that one inspiration that the bird represented. At was in the regiment took the eagle home and old He lived in a cage in the Capitol Building at Madison, Wisconsin. But he spent half barely half his time there because by then he had become a coveted guest of honor at Veterans reunions and other patriotic meetings over their body in the north. Oh, veterans wanted all day to be there when they were having a reunion. And as you might expect, as the soldiers grew older, the legends about old age became greater. They grew in number with the passing years in both in quality and quantity. It was says, for example, that the ego would make an oil reconnaissance. And then going back to the message of what he saw and how he communicated with the jungle, we don't know. But he'd be back, bring back all this information. And the best tale of him was him flying above, he could find the commanding federal Confederate journal. Then he started dive bombing with his talents and his beaks. That was a good one, too. It wasn't true, but it made for lively telling. In March 1881, old he died in arms of his keeper. The animal was stuffed and placed inside a glass case at the Wisconsin capitol. He was destroyed 13 years later when fire swept through the Capitol building. But again, as Paul Harvey would say, that's not the end of the story. Two enduring monuments exist to the eagle. One is the Wisconsin State monument on the Vicksburg battlefield. It's the largest tallest monument I add the expo. It's a granite column, 57 and a half feet tall. And on top of it is a six foot statue of all day. But the other Memorial originated in World War Two, and is still in use as you in Kentucky? Well, no, it is one of the most well known show had has one of the most well known shoulder patches in existence. The patch belongs to the 101st airborne division. And that's all day they pick. And they are known today as the Screaming Eagles. As the point man, when you really need a solid attack, and all day, I think, would enjoy that. Now, the field of Civil War history is over the line with folklore and myths. I mean, historians spend as much time sifting the truth from the untruth as they do writing positively. And certainly this is true when you get into the arena of espionage. Now, that was spies of plenty. Most of them were women. The problem is they will tell everybody they were spies in order to get information. And so it was very easy for the other side to feed misinformation to despise, who would find it on to headquarters, espionage, and as your sophisticated science was still in its infancy then. So when you start reading spy stories of the Civil War be be cautious because for every James Bond that might be that were to maximal smarts out that too. So you just have to be very, very careful. Among the few truly successful agents was Elizabeth van Lew, the daughter of a wealthy Richmond merchant, Lizzy was well educated, highly intelligent. She became misuse of the van loo mansion on Churchill, a one and a half storey home with six column porticoes, a home that overlooks not only the James River but Libby Prison. The Union compound for offices was at the bottom of the hill in 1861. Lizzie was in her mid 40s small shop features how Captain winglets dotting blue eyes, nervous disposition. She was a staunch Unionist. She refused to have anything to do with the Confederacy. She would not cooperate in any way in defense of the Slough. Quite was the contour she became an active union espionage agent supplying the north with vital information. Indeed, she managed to get one of her fleet servants, Elizabeth Bowser, as the waitress as a as on the staff of Jefferson Davis's home at the Confederate White House. And Mrs. Bowser we serve food OBD and listen to the conversations relay the information to Van
Lew, who would then pass it along to Union soldiers. As for Van Lew herself, she needed a disguise because she was a suspect, openly a suspect. And so she picked the unit unique way to do it. She assumed all the hours of a lunatic absolutely crazy. She would dress in quite crazy clothing, that outlandish clothing, nothing of a match. She walked down the middle of the street singing nonsense songs to Israel. She would launch and scream at people and everybody enrichment you He's crazy Betsy, and they went to lengths to stay out of her way. Meanwhile, she had converted. This was lit it was one where the officers were, she had converted her home into a vertebral fortress. As you can see, here's a secret passageway through the walls to a rooms where she had escaping prisoners. The dormitory of the home she turned into, I mean the attic of the home she turned into a veritable dormitory for escape was and she had triple locks on the door. Then Lou mentioned became a fortress. Following the union occupation of Richmond and April 65. General Grant publicly commended van Lew for sending what he called the most valuable information received from Richmond during the entire 30 of this war. Only then did in such townspeople learn that a Yankee spy had ARPA lead is so successful in that missed for four years. In 1869, then President Grant added insult to injury by appointing van Lew postmaster of Richmond. She held a position throughout the Grant administration, and then had to leave town and went to Washington and finally got a job with the Post Office Department there. When she left Richmond. City officials property, confiscated her home and turned it into an insane asylum. The Exiled friendly spinster eventually was allowed to return to Richmond, and near the end of her life, she asked if she could go we visited her home one more time. And this is the first time I think this picture has been published at as van Lew mansion. But if you look in the lower left hand corner, there's Lizzie van loo, seated on a bench and a home that once was a fortress against the Confederacy. She died in 1900. Nobody came to a funeral. Soon an elaborate gravestone during the burial site and some people thought the market would be a forgiving gesture made by the citizens of Richmond. Actually, it was a gift from appreciative Massachusets families who soldier signs van loo had helped to gain freedom from prison. Now to kind of go from terrible to beautiful in one step. Arlington National Cemetery is the nation's largest shrine to fallen heroes. Its breathtaking beauty, overshadow its disreputable beginnings. George Washington Custis ISTEP son and namesake of our first President inherited the property in 1802. And cost is set out to build a combination mansion and shrine to the father that he adored. He called the place Arlington, named after the cost his family's first home on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Costas and his wife had one child, a daughter, Marie, and an 1831. She married captain, why would he leave, and Arlington became the only real Home Army officer Lee would have, for 30 years. Six of his seven children were born there. It was at Arlington, in April 1861, that Lee made the decision to offer his solar to his native Virginia, rather than to the federal government. Quite often, I get questions about that, how could he give up 30 years of army service be offered the most supreme command he could possibly make and turn it down? I think you have to use a little bit of arithmetic. And pardon my Virginia bias. Well, I am a native Virginian and immensely proud of it. I can show you a couple of ways out, but let's use investment. When this nation began in 1787, with the adoption of the Constitution, Virginia was already 180 years old. In 1861, when civil war came, the Lee family had been living in Virginia for 225 years. So they went Lee said I cannot draw my sword against my family, my birthplace, my country. He was referring to Virginia, now a nation that had barely known 70 years of existence. So I think in that respect, you can understand these position perhaps a little better. The minute that the leaves abandoned Arlington, they had to Federals quickly seized it. And it was under the command of the quartermaster journal, humorless fella named Montgomery mags. brilliant engineer at Arlington estate, and this is makes a man you love to hate. He was just an uncontrollably vindictive man. He and Lee had been friends for 30 years but mags interpreted Lee's decision to go with his native country to outright treason. Indeed, he thought his own his own brother, who joins the Confederate forces ought to be hanged for treason. And so to punish his longtime friend Lee, for siding with
Virginia mags determined to turn Arlington into something that leaves would never want. Again. He would want to make it a vast cemetery and unauthorized burials began in May 1864. And soon the he could receive permission to bury any unknown desire and Ebert ever union body he could find. And, and if one day he superintended, the burial of 2111 unknown soldiers in one gigantic pit in Arlington any, any pick the Rose Garden to do so that's what you see today is not what you would have seen back then. At first, he was no honor to be buried at Arlington. Only those who could not be identified was so good. But what time a positive transformation began. And it ended in 1955 when the Arlington mansion was dedicated, ironically, as a memorial to our Buddy Lee. today. Oh, this whole wealth is on let me get him out of sight. He's on the policy. Today more than 230,000 dead lion the 600 acre tract. An average of 18 funerals are held daily to events round out the story and 1882 Montgomery Meigs, our villain died by his aura he was buried a stone's throw from the entrance to the matching. You can't miss his grade. If you visit Arlington. Later that same year, the United States Supreme Court found the federal government guilty of illegal seizure of the Arlington estate. The high court awarded the family what amounts to about $15 million dollars in damages. And in order the federal government to give back to the estate, the family took the money. Of course he was too late to do anything else with with the property. And so Arlington stands out today, a monument to better feeling engendered by civil war, yet a reminder of the ongoing cost of American freedom. Next on AI there's a chapter in there called Heroes ports and scandals. And I had a good time with that particularly the last name category scandals. So let's start with a shifty Massachusetts politician and pardon the redundancy him. Incredibly enough, he was the first major journal appointed in the Union army. He was the senior major journal, he ranked over grant until March 18 64. And he moved along a path that made him the most hated northerner of the Civil War. His name was Benjamin Franklin Butler. He was a sort of man the Founding Fathers had in mind when they strengthened the constitution to prevent an abuse of military authority, and he violated every turn on Lincoln appointed Butler journal in 1861. Because of his powerful influence in the Democratic Party, Butler didn't know a battalion from a Dragoon when he came to military knowledge. But he was so influential politically, and the war everyone assumed was going to be so quick that Lincoln fill making these appointments would make the opposition and II Democrats feel more obligated to him when peace came. But Butler was the sort of man a kind of a man of many parts if you will, but not one of them was out of a soldier in their sea, demonstrated consistently throughout the Civil War. In other one a battle. He snatched defeat from the jaws of victory time and time again. Early in 61, he was commanding the Union forces on the tip of the Virginia Peninsula. And on his own, he issued a declaration that one away slaves slaves were property owned by men and rebellion. Therefore, these one away slaves are contraband. They are captured goods. And they do not have to be returned to their owners, who were the southern rebels who contraband that were put to work in the union office. But Butler makes this preliminary step toward freedom for a year before Lincoln would come to the Emancipation Proclamation. Then the following spring, he was assigned as a military governor of New Orleans, the South largest city. Naturally citizens greeted him with hostility. Naturally, Butler responded by establishing a dictatorial government. His approach alone was in keeping with his you askable personality. Now there is a no gay man. unusually tall at six feet 11 inches, he was bald headed with a dumpy oversized body, arms and legs. It seemed to him he's done rather than connected A little brown mustache under a sharp crooked nose and his eyes were totally out of alignment. One went this way the one went the other. Mr. Lincoln was wonderful he was he has exploited that feature once the Cabinet members were just giving the President hell about Butler's Miss Whoa, and find the Lincoln intellect and said, Ah, but you must remember, jungle Butler doesn't see things quite the way we do. When New Orleans residents gathered in protest over his initial directives, but loaded up an artillery battery and battery and threatened to blow them all away. A man who taught an American flag one day was hanging the next day. shopkeepers who denied business
He was the first person to attack politicians in voicings, and he was vicious with it then, and in
reputation, a reputation that would end with him being the father of editorial page cartoons.
most popular magazine, Harper's Weekly, and the year was 1862. And NASA already had a
reputation, a reputation that would end up with him being the father of editorial page cartoons.
He was the first person to attack politicians in voicings, and he was vicious with it then, and in

To Yankee customers, found their stores first seized and then sold. Ministers who refuse to play
for the President of the United States were banished to the north. New Orleans women
remained openly contemptuous. They treated all soldiers with what's called one on one
occasion when a group of ladies turned their backs. As Butler low pass the jungle said in a loud
voice ah, these women evidently know which end of them looks best of female spat at two
federal soldiers than a housekeeper emptied her slop jar on command common door David fog
its head as a naval officer walked beneath her balcony. And that was enough about three
weeks into his union occupation. He issued special orders number 28, which specified and I'm
paraphrasing, that any woman of New Orleans, who displayed any disrespect whatsoever for
soldier of the United States could be treated as, quote, a woman of the night plying her
application. He justifies sexual assault, rape, if you will. And of course international uproar over
this was outstanding British prime prime minister even issued a protest about it. Jefferson Davis
cloud Butland to be an outlaw, which by international language means if you catch him, kill
him, don't bother with a trial. Now bottlers order actually contain more fire than bite. They after
no federal soldiers were insulted, and no new audience women were assaulted. However, the
town's prostitutes had the last say so so to speak. This was another an age of indoor plumbing,
you use what are called chamber pots, or in respectable term tinkle pots. And so each one of
these foster tees did was to paint Butler's face on the bottom of the Taiko pots. And several
times a day, they took a shot at him just to let him know, you know exactly how they felt. Now,
the American conflict of the 60s is often called the war first, because of innovations it brought
to everyday life, I give a talk on how the civil war still, you'd be amazed and how that war
affects you. It affects every aspect of your life. Love your clothing. Back in 1860, if you had
joined the US Army, you issued the uniform, not a uniform, the uniform, whether you were 532
or 64, whether you weighed 100 pounds or 300 pounds, you were given the uniform. And when
troops began to gather in Washington to start the war, Quartermaster General, Montgomery
mags looked out and he said My God, they resemble an international convention of clients. And
so with that, he angrily sent an order to all the uniform manufacturers in the nice saying hands
for you will not make a uniform, you're gonna make four and we're gonna call them small,
medium, large and extra large. And that started pre sized clothing. Every article you have on
your body was made before you bought it. You go to a department store and it's already that
waiting for you. That comes out of the Civil War. The closest when many of you have most of us
how came out of the Civil War when John Erickson invented the Merrimack in olden days when
the call of nature hit upon a sailor he went out on deck of his sailing ship with his finger to see
which way the wind was blowing, and then went over to the appropriate whaling dropped his
trousers and did his thing. But with the USS monitor and all steel ship with no deck, it was
another problem. And so Erickson quickly solved the problem by inventing what he called the
water chest. You know it as the commode the toilet, don't undermine it. You do some of your
finest thinking with that incident. You meditate that often you solve many problems that is a
very close friend of yours. Think what it would be like if you didn't have the present day
appliance that came out of the Civil War. So it is standard time paper money home delivery of
mail, and it goes on and on the form that On Kane, America's happiest day of the year,
Christmas. Yuletide. We all began with Thomas Nast, son of German immigrants. He was a
gifted artist. Oh, that's a cartoon about oh yeah, this here we go. A cartoon of Butler done by
Southern obviously there he is dressed like some Arabian chic or something. He's holding this
defenseless sword up by the Hyatts. She's screaming for mercy. You've got an already
blooded sword in his hand. He's gonna Decapitator and minimize if you look, you can see when
I was looking at North and the others looking southeast of there. This is how bad they can make
him. This is Thomas Nast, son of German immigrants. He became an artist in the country's
most popular magazine, Harper's Weekly, and the year was 1862. And NASA already had a
reputation, a reputation that would end up with him being the father of editorial page cartoons.
He was the first person to attack politicians in voicings, and he was vicious with it then, and in
the targets he picked vicious. So much. So it's often said the adjective nasty refers back to Thomas Nast. But in the autumn of 62, he began producing boy time sketches that a balmy life and he became deeply depressed. Christmas was approaching, and he kept eating on his mind that the 10s of 1000s of Billy yanks on Christmas Day they will be far away from home, and lonely and homesick and despairing, and he wished he, the son of a German immigrant could do something that might elevate his spirits. Well, by chance or divine intervention, take your choice. Now, Ash came upon a poem written back in 1823 by a man named comment more never been illustrated, but now has decided to illustrate the main character, and he wanted it to be an absurd, absolutely lovable figure. So he sat down in his easel, and he began to draw follows very short. It was like nothing Mr. Miyagi gigantic Belen did not know a razor white beard down to his navel. His wife had no taste in clothing, she let him wear the same thing over and over which suit with white fur around the wrists and the ankles. And either had a brain perfection or speech impediment, because all he could say was hohoho. And as a clincher he rolled around in a sled driven by eight lane deal, who could fly and you get out on the street and meet some unintelligible policeman and you start spiraling that story and you'll be on your one way trip to the enchanted kingdom. They put you away for stuff like that. What in God's name had he created Santa Claus? Santa Claus? Not St. Nicholas. Not Kris Kringle no European import Santa Claus is ours. All American. There's no Santa Claus anywhere else. But this this country. And Santa Claus was planted, I think. Yeah, here's the first one. He doesn't look like modern day Santa Claus. But there's an ingenuity in this painting. What you see is something in the field distributing gifts. What you see before you see anything is the faces of the soldiers. That happen is the inad. And then you see Santa Claus in this first attempt. Now as as him wearing a flag embroidered shirt, but that will change with time. This is a famous, Thomas NAS Santa Claus, the one we all love. The one that epitomizes Christmas, often say Santa Claus ought to be a national hero and Uncle Sam, because he represents all the loving and caring and sharing and giving that Santa Claus represents. He is He gives us the one day a year when we can all be children again, and enjoy Santa Claus and Christmas the goddess of age, and they fought is it 50 Some of you may remember the Coca Cola Company came out with a Santa Claus it was wildly popular. But you go back to basics. It's going to be Thomas Nast. From his pen came the Democratic donkey, the Republican elephant, the tiger representing political corruption in Tammany Hall. All sorts of symbols, such as this, plus scores, a scathing editorial page cartoons that he could sketch. But do most Americans with a sense of history. He will always be the man who made Santa Claus. This is self portrait. He made it himself later in life. Like it's Civil War photographs and paintings. Most of you will miss something and the majority of army scenes. It's the most forgotten element in the Civil War. And I'm referring to horses. It was man's basic transportation back then, the horse. The army could not move with out the horse. It dragged the cannons and the wagons it bore the mounted infantry who will call cavalry. They were needed in the army that needed they were absolutely vital to any army. Millions of horses went into military service. Here's a scene of just one battalion of artillery of horses. And this brings us to a misconception that Hollywood has perpetuated for decades. See the old John Wayne movies and the Indians attack a wagon train, and the wagon train goes into a circle and the white men shoot at the Indians, and they shoot and the Indians fall dead off their horses. And I guess we can assume the horses all the way into the sunset and going back home, to the TPS or wherever, wherever the the tribes may be, in count as small as backwards, you shoot the horses first. You have a lot of cowboy coming down the road, you shoot the horses, so to get has to get the men down on your level on the ground. If a horse is dragging the account on up the hill, you shoot the horses. The men themselves don't have the strength to put the cannon into play. And so in reality, the civil war becomes a killing contest of horses. They were the first target in battle. And they were shot and such feelings were violin and feeling but no one has ever said that war was nice. And some mounts became famous simply because of their writers. Probably the best known horse in American history was while but he
Leaves great grey stallion traveler. Traveler today lies just outside the wall of elite chapel on the campus of Washington and Lee University, go through the wall about five feet and generally is buried inside travelers almost arm's reach away, outside. And if you were there today, on travelers headstone, you will probably see an apple two or some karlitz people are forever leaving little mementos on his grave. And having done a little bit of work on Stonewall Jackson, I can tell you that the bond between Jackson and his horse a little Sol was mutual strength and trust and love. Army horses in the 1860s never had an easy time. Half of them we went into battle will instantly kill artillery horses had to drag heavy cannon into supplies through all elements. And once they got to the front lines, life expectancy was about a matter of seconds. For every horse killed in action, three others died from exhaustion, starvation, abuse, exposure and watch where diseases such as Glanders and so on. But they were faithful to the end. The government gave no interviews. They love no memoirs. They fall for no pensions. They simply obeyed all the way to death. Some one and a half million horses died in the Civil War. Not one was ever given a decent burial. One monument exists today to civil war horses. It's on the lawn of the Virginia Historical Society enrichment. It's a bronze statue that depicts a stalled and worn out animal head bowed standing as if in the very next moment. It will slowly try and topple dead to the guy on the likenesses a pitiful but appropriate reminder, a one and a half million of God's creatures who were innocent victims of a war in World Peace to a national pasture these horses never knew. When the war ceased, it did not the gun filing and the activity might have stopped but the actions did not. Over 700,000 vacant shales stood away on empty dining room tables. And half of those men were gathered elsewhere under a new family name unknown that we starting with the once beautiful capital of Richmond had to be cleared, lessons learned a new nation created from the smoldering ashes of mind and body. The first assassination of a president was a national tragedy, executing four of his motor was seemed to be empty retribution. The hanging four months later of a Confederate prison calming down was a little more than vengeance. And as lawyers would tell you today, it was simply a lynching totally out of kilter with prevailing evidence. With Lincoln's hand no longer at the helm a vindictive Congress move to make the South but even more for the sins of secession. We know that period as reconstruction. But a bit mad still burning emotions. A few human dramas, bought moment or cheerfulness. One of my favorite occurred in 1866 when a periodical named the soldiers plan staged A contest, union veterans who had lost their white arm in action. During the war, were invited to submit samples of that penmanship using the other arm, and hundreds of scribble entries came forward. And the winner was a Massachusetts soldier named Jesse Pendergrast. cabinet maker by trade. His entry was a 10 page submission Alaba impersonal summary of his military ecovia on June 17. This is well let me back up. I got to build it up to bid on June 17 1864. He said he was in a fight with Confederates with Petersburg. He was standing on an earthwork when in his words, and enemy shale exploded and wounded me so badly that it was necessary to amputate my white arm, as well as three fingers and half of the thumb of my left hand. Look at him. He's got a stump for foam and a little stump for forefinger. And that's all his left on his good arm. And look what he's done. I've taught college 50 years I've never encountered a student who could write that letter. And I look at it it is absolutely beautiful. And no way I could possibly write that well, but he did it. He did it was only a piece of a hand. Now to make the nation whole northern and American soldiers fought one of the most destructive wars in history, and they fought it with a fierce passion. That would be wounds that would be a long time healing scars, no amount of time. Could we move. However, as the postwar years passed, a strange and wonderful thing began to occur. Union and Confederate veterans realized that not only had they survived the most terrible conflict of the 19th century, they came as well to understand and to appreciate what the other side had done to they had gone through the same living hell, as outside. Johnny libs never apologized for what they had done, and Billy yanks never asked them to do so. And as soon as long comradeship glue them to Battlefield reunions. And now they came to stand and remember, well, once they had stood
the fall, they came together, to be together. And in 1913, on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1000s of civil war veterans gathered for a 10 day reunion. They relived the past here a bunch of old idiots, recreating Pickett’s Charge, and they're coming across you we feel that waving their hats and cheering and laughing, and they are doing so because beside the common man Well, hundreds of union veterans chilling these old Falzon as they recreated the past, in a beautiful type of way. They refresh their memories together. And most importantly, they sit side by side with friends on the other side, who were experiencing the same emotions. And the one time song most heard during that 10 Day reunion was not a one time tune, such as home sweet home, just before the Bible. It was an old song. And we know the lyrics, we swing them once a year. And here's a hand my trusty friend, and give us a hand of the line. And we'll take a cup of coffee this yet today is of all anxiety. And when it was time to go, the old soldier shook hands and made their way collectively toward the same sunset. The Civil War contains many things. Fundamentally, it was a very human, extremely emotional, truly unforgettable chapter in our evolution of our country. The war contains sadness and humor, devotion and inspiration and these feelings are what I have sought to convey in the book The Untold civil war. I genuinely hope that from it you will get a better understanding of the personal element always pleasant and the war a war that made us one indivisible nation Thank you very much I think we have time for question two Yes sir. Distraught now that's not true. It was turned into a cemtery long Number four, my Garmin mag, lost his son. Yeah, he lost his son. And the son's grave is right next to my gummy mags. And it's a grotesque thing, this Ablon statue of the son who's lying on his back as if in agony. And he had that created because he firmly believed at the end, that his son was murdered by elements of John Mosby partisan majors, when all the facts show that he was shot down on Monday and an exchange of gun mags was just it was just not very likable man. I'm doing a book now for the National Geographic Society. And I want to apologize to my host, because this morning, well, no, no what they wanted me to do. But I begged off and I've been waiting all morning or white this afternoon at the airport. And going back at some of the book will be entitled Civil War echoes. And I'm taking 75 notable Civil War figures not merely merely politicians and journalists, but artists, musicians and, and others, whatnot, and telling you what happened after the Civil War. It's incredible stories. So many incredible stories, mags is one of the most bizarre, the man was petrified by water. And he directed at his death, before his body was placed in the casket, his head be encased in black cement. So it wouldn't get wet. What difference did it make to him by then? I mean, he's got you will. But you find some incredible stories. Matthew Brady, we all know if all the photo photography, yet he died homeless on the streets of New York book, not a friend. His grave was unmarked for about 20 years, the veterans of the Southern New York put up a little stone that identify and so even the postwar careers of these men are quite revealing. Again, we've had four presidents assassinated. And we have disease all the time with new inflammation news in the seed, about the deaths of Lincoln and Kennedy. Nobody ever remembers James Garfield and William McKinley, and why they will kill. And that's extremely interesting to even from from an execution Gangnam Style. So I'm working very feverishly on that book. And it's got to be in by December. And I think publication is scheduled for September 2013, the end of the sesquicentennial period. So these guys have an ongoing career. So I'm positive that they're not so positive. Yes, ma'am. Yes, and I left the phone in my bag. Which is out in the car. I mean, I do have a lot of water for a minute, but they unfold off failed to bring in. Where's, where's joy? It's in my briefcase. And it's it's a little folder with order forms. And it would you get it for me. It's in that brown briefcases and inside the car? Yeah. I do have that. Or if you want the the untold wall just gave me a check. Now it's got your address on it, and I'll take cash. I don't care. Yes. Inaudible.
What is the reason that you've got such a socialist oriented, common soldier's story and where are you going?

Yes, yes. So early, early, became interested in the social aspect, rather than the military aspect. And I went to me, not because it's all but of the soil. But because Bill while he was there, and he was the great champion historian, the common people, he wrote two studies, the life of Johnny way over the life of Billy Yank, which are classics, and I followed in his path. Unfortunately, I'm the only one in his 18 PhDs who continued in your spare, while I continue to just divide on the human element. I just think one of the basic things wrong with the field of history today is the ignoring of the human factor by historians. military historians, for example, is give you it and blue lines, and the red and blue lines on a map. Why not? They are not inanimate there are 10s of 1000s of fighting young men who don't know whether they're going to live or die, who just wish they could be at home, who was scared to death of illness and sickness. I mean, they live so my lectures into my classes are not their military only when necessary. The rest of the time I'm speaking on medicine, love life, prisons, women, things behind the lines, it was such an integral part on this, you know, washes, for example, and it totally ignore it. Throw another one out at you that gave you something to think about. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania had 2000 citizens when 150,000 men gathered at that little town to fight a three day battle, an era of a wonder where they got the water 450,000 men they LCS I don't think many of them got much water. I think you can insert dehydration into the whys of Gettysburg and explain a lot about what went wrong there long streets core was obviously dehydrated. On the second day is fine. And everybody gives much attention to Joshua Chamberlain and his 20th main stopping I charge an Alabama brigade, that Alabama brigade charge shouting water water not victory deck for your Yankees Yankees, they were shot in water, they wanted water more than anything else. Well, what is forgotten elements and of course, turn the water coin over. And you've got the fact that this water was never pure. I mean, armies count along have ever used it for latrine as well as for a source of drinking water. And this is why typhoid fever of the ages throughout the Civil War, as well as nitda. It's the third biggest killer and the warmth behind dolly and bullets. And much of the DA vo i would suggest comes again from the impurities that settle underwater the time to pour food.

Yeah, you mentioned about the suffering. I was struck by one example in your book in Russian, of course, Thomas McKay, who went to Camp Douglas in the prison really terribly went insane. We know a lot about the status of overall Hadley if he ever found anything about how many people roughly were affected, mentally

post traumatic syndrome stuff. No, we don't. It was there is no question about that. It was Lau added to that was the fact that there were not variations of painkillers of those days. Soldiers make mention of blue mass, which was basically morphine, or sometimes pure opium. And a lot of these guys just got hopelessly hooked on it suffered permanent brain damage from using
concentrated opium and morphine. That's another factor. That's another volume demand. And you got to remember to for every one man killed in battle, two men die behind the lines from sickness and disease. The biggest killer and the wise diarrheal. Well, that's what they was been call. It was probably the dysentery. Diarrhea is a symptom. You get diarrhea when there's something wrong with you. Dysentery is an infection of the intestinal tract. But to the physicians of that day who knew nothing about modern medicine. It was all about their professors are kooky. Thank you professors a kooky we keep we keep those things going. All my life. I've dealt with the soldiers letters and diaries and I've kept on running a running list of the way the soldier spelled out real. I'm up to 27 And that doesn't include the S word they just every which way they do. Okay. One father. Yes, sir. I hope I can hear you. Yeah, I mentioned this in my talk, I must have been speaking too fast. Until 1955. The Arlington estate was totally neglected. It was just standing on its own basically. But in 1955, the federal government designated at a memorial of Albany Lee, and since then the League Association is done milk was Arlington's was a beautiful place to visit. Now. In fact, it's undergoing some even new renovations as we speak. So it's in great shape to visit but you have to pass Montgomery makes an attempt to get that. So you know, this just isn't at all. Thank you so much for being here.