

**Volume 18**

**Number 043**

**A House Divided: (94) – Overland  
Campaign, 1864 – I**

**Lead: One hundred and fifty years ago the Republic was facing its greatest crisis. This continuing series examines the American Civil War. It is "A House Divided."**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: President Lincoln would say it later but he understood a fundamental fact as spring turned to summer 1864. "Upon the progress of our arms, all else chiefly depends." His re-election, emancipation and the restoration of the Union would not at**

**any point be achieved by negotiation. In his message to Congress outlining discussions with Jefferson Davis that lamentable summer, he wrote that “Davis does not attempt to deceive us. He cannot voluntarily reaccept the Union, we cannot voluntarily yield it. Between him and us the issue is distinct, simple and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war, and decided by victory.**

**While William Sherman’s armies closed in on Atlanta, newly designated Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant moved toward Richmond in what has come to be called the Overland Campaign. It was hard-fought and bloody with enormous Federal casualties but by the time it was over he had locked up the**

**vaunted Army of Northern Virginia and its commander, Robert E. Lee, inside the Richmond defenses. The war would not end that summer but it was going to end and the Confederacy be crushed.**

**First in the Wilderness west of Fredericksburg, then at Spotsylvania Courthouse, then at Cold Harbor, Grant pounded and maneuvered his way around Lee's right flank, refusing to withdraw and lick his wounds when whipped. Under Grant the Army of the Potomac in Virginia for the first time stayed on the offensive. Next time: the Wilderness.**

**At the University of Richmond's  
School of Professional and Continuing  
Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

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