

**Volume 18**

**Number 049**

**A House Divided: (97) Fall of Atlanta –**

**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: In Summer 1864 a sense of malaise and depression gripped the North as the fortunes of Federal armies seemed to flag. Not since the heady days of Confederate triumph in the winter and spring of 1862 and 1863 did the cause of the Union seem so**

**hopeless. In many ways this was a product of war weariness after three years of almost constant conflict and a sense that the Union war strategy had bogged down in Georgia and Virginia, but also it grew from the effusion of blood that attended Yankee forces at seemingly every turn. The horrific slaughter at Cold Harbor had led to stalemate in front of Petersburg, and though Phillip Sheridan eventually rolled up Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Valley, that would not come until deep into the Fall.**

**In Georgia, William Tecumseh Sherman had his eye on Atlanta, and on May 7<sup>th</sup> left Chattanooga at the head of three armies determined to take this vitally important railhead**

**and industrial center. For the next four months Sherman and his armies slowly approached and eventually wrapped his pincers around the City, squeezing it into submission. Yet in contrast to his subsequent march to the sea and then across the Carolinas in the winter, it was not an easy campaign. It was war by maneuver, with both sides negotiating mountainous, rugged terrain, with Sherman battling for advantage against Confederate General Joseph Johnston. Neither commander was willing to sacrifice his men in pitched battles, therefore when Johnston would take a stand at Resaca, Cassville or Allatoona Pass, Sherman refused to take the bait and would wheel his armies to Johnston's left. But by the**

**end of June he faced entrenched rebels on the slopes of Kennesaw Mountain 20 miles northeast of the City. Next time: the Fall of Atlanta.**

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

## Resources

**Carter, Samuel, III. *The Siege of Atlanta*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1973.**

**Catton, Bruce. *A Stillness at Appomattox*. New York, NY: - Doubleday, 1953.**

**Catton, Bruce. *Grant Takes Command*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1969.**

**Catton, Bruce. *The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War*. New York, NY: American Heritage Publishing Company, 1960, 1988.**

**Dowdey, Clifford. *Lee's Last Campaign: The Story of Lee and His Men Against Grant – 1864*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Company, 1960.**

**Hart, Basil H. Liddell. *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American*. New York, NY: Dodd, Meade and Company, 1929.**

**Hattaway, Herman and Archer Jones. *How the North Won: A Military History of the Civil War*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1983.**

**Keegan, John. *The Face of Battle*. New York, NY: Viking Press, 1977.**

**Mahon, John K. "Civil War Infantry Assault Tactics," *Military Affairs* 25 ( 1961): 57-68.**

**McPherson, James M. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1988.**

**McWhiney, Grady and Perry D. Jamieson. *Attack and Die: Civil War Military Tactics and the Southern Heritage*. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama, 1982.**

**<http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/ransom.civil.war.us>**

**Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.**