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American History I
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BAND OF BROTHERS

SUMMARY #8
Fighting and arguing among the northern and southern cadets of the United States Military Academy at West Point was very common during the 1850’s. Robert E. Lee was the superintendent of the academy. He tried very hard to convince the cadets that they should live together in peace and harmony. He continuously reminded them that they were a “Band of Brothers”.

Even though the cadets constantly fought over northern and southern issues, they did however, agree on some issues. For instance, when Fitzhugh Lee, who was Robert E. Lee’s nephew, was listed for dismissal for going over the wall too many times, the whole corps stuck together in getting the charges against him dropped. They succeeded.

Even after Robert E. Lee’s resignation in 1855, the fights continued among the “Band of Brothers”. It didn’t matter how big or small they were, the northern cadets stood up for themselves against the southern cadets and their insulting remarks. When a fight broke out between southern cadet Wade Hampton Gibbs and northern cadet Emory Upton, Upton being the smaller of the two, Upton’s roommate, John Rodgers of Pennsylvania stepped up to defend him. Morris Schaff, a cadet from Ohio, described this incident as being the moment when the south saw what iron and steel there was in the northern blood once it was up.

Once Lincoln became president, the southern states decided on secession. This caused a lot of the southern cadets to withdraw from the academy even though it was a sad decision for them to make. Even though they fought amongst each other, they did live together and a lot of them became friends. There were 278 cadets at the academy on the day Lincoln was elected and 65 out of the 86 who were southern went back home to the south. This caused many emotional goodbyes.
When the war finally broke out, many of these West Point graduates, southern and northern crossed each other's paths throughout many battles. Once Custer became brigadier general, he found himself charging cavalry that was commanded by his old friend Tom Rosser. One particular time Rosser found himself and his cavalry in full view of northern sharpshooters commanded by Custer. Custer made his line hold their fire and the next day under a flag of truce, sent a message to Rosser telling him not to be exposing himself so openly because the day before he could have killed him.

When the war was finally over, some of the West Point graduates rode off in search of old friends. Custer went into a confederate camp looking for some of his old friends and General George Meade went to visit his old friend Robert E. Lee. On June 9, 1902, thirty-seven years later, the still living veterans of both sides went to the West Point Academy to celebrate its 100th anniversary. At this celebration, Edward Porter Alexander was one of the chief speakers. In giving his speech that day he said, “It was best for the south that the cause was lost. Whose vision is not so dull that he does not recognize the blessing it is to himself and to his children to live in an undivided country?”

I think the title for this story is good, but if I were the writer, I think I would have added to it. I would have titled it “Band of Brothers, Friend, Foe, or both”. The southern graduates of this academy either stayed with the union for some reason or another, or went home to stand by their own. All in all, a lot of them became friends regardless of being northern or southern. They did their job, sometimes looking out for each other along the way, and when it was over, returned to being friends once again. I liked very much what Edmond Porter Alexander said in his speech at the academy’s 100th
anniversary celebration. I’m very thankful to be living in an undivided country where people stand together.
BENEDICT ARNOLD:
HOW THE TRAITOR WAS UNMASKED
SUMMARY #3
George Washington was looking forward to spending a nice evening with his good friend Benedict Arnold and his wife, Peggy. Not only was Arnold a good friend of Washington, but he was his military comrade as well. Washington had placed Arnold in command of the fort at West Point. Little did he know, that Arnold was a traitor? This was well hidden from Washington. He approached the Robinson house where the Arnolds lived thinking that the Arnolds themselves would meet him at the door with open arms. Instead Arnold’s aide, David Salisbury Franks, met him at the door embarrassed that Arnold himself was not there. Franks explained to Washington that Arnold had left earlier for West Point telling him that he wanted to prepare a suitable welcome for Washington. After eating breakfast, Washington left Alexander Hamilton at the house while he went forward to West Point. When he arrived he was greeted with another disappointment. General Arnold was not there. Colonel John Lamb who was the resident commandant of the fortress greeted him. Lamb had not been notified of Washington’s upcoming visit. Washington felt that this was very strange, but went on to do his inspection of the fortress. He found it in very bad shape.

After his inspection of the fortress, Washington headed back to the Arnold’s house and arrived by 3:30. Dinner was to be at 4:00. When he got there Alexander Hamilton told him that Arnold had never returned and Peggy was still in bed. Washington then went to the chambers that were assigned to him so that he could get ready for dinner. While he was getting ready, Hamilton came into the room with a handful of very incriminating documents.

It turns out that Benedict Arnold was giving information to the British about West Point and information on the 3,086 patriots at the fortress. Prior to this day, Major General John Andre of the British army was captured in civilian clothes carrying maps of West Point in his boots while trying to get back to the Vulture ship. This was same ship that Arnold escaped on.
Washington was slow in advising a plan that would protect West Point because he was not functioning properly from the emotional shock of Arnold turning traitor. Nothing happened to the fortress because Arnold’s plans were interrupted by the capture of Andre. Now Washington had to make an example of Andre so as to keep this sort of thing from happening again. Despite pleas from the British to spare Andre’s life, Washington decided that he did not want the American leaders to think that this was something that would be treated lightly for fear that it might happen again. Washington told the British that if they would hand over Arnold, he in turn would set forth the immediate release of Andre. This did not happen so Andre was hanged while teary-eyed soldiers stood and watched. Andre was a very brave and charming man who was sort of misled by Arnold. As for Peggy, Arnold’s wife, she had Washington fooled into thinking she was a very sick and innocent woman. Washington had a thing about beauty and innocence being tied together in some sort of way. Peggy was eventually run out of her father’s house in Philadelphia and sent to London where her sickness miraculously disappeared.

I think that Washington shouldn’t have let his personal feelings for someone he thought was a friend get in the way of his leading a country. Also, I would hope that he took his blinders off to his ridiculous idea that a woman’s beauty makes her automatically innocent. Just because someone is pretty doesn’t mean they are innocent. Pretty is as pretty does. I don’t like the thought of anybody being hanged, but I do, however, think that he made the right choice when it came to Andre even if it was a tremendously sad situation. He was the leader of this great country, which may not have turned out as great as it did, had he been easy on those who were traitors. Also, Washington had people against him to begin with when it came to Benedict Arnold. They thought he was picking favorites by letting him command West Point. Because of
this, was it Washington’s fault that Arnold became a traitor? Some looked at Washington as being guilty by association.
BRADDOCK’S MARCH
ON FORT DUQUESNE

SUMMARY #1
After the British loss of victory at George Washington’s Fort Necessity on May 28, 1754, which started the seven-year French and Indian War, a new campaign was formed with General Edward Braddock chosen to command.

General Braddock was to lead over two thousand men to carry out this campaign that took place in the summer of 1755. This was the largest military force to form on the North American Continent up to this point in time. He tried to recruit some of the Indians to join his army, but only convinced a very few. Most of the Indians were on the side of the French because they got along better with them.

Braddock was to go to Pennsylvania and take over Fort Duquesne. George Washington joined Braddock’s force as an aide. This was good for Braddock because Washington had already traveled the particular route they were taking several times. He knew the way. The march to Fort Duquesne relied on the building of a road that Braddock and his men constructed by using an old Indian path called Nemacolin’s Path, which gave them a route through the Allegheny Mountains. It took them a little over a month to build this road, which was 12 feet wide and 110 miles long and 50 years later, financed by Congress as the first National Road. This road is now called U.S 40 and is still here today.

Braddock had little disciplinary control over his troops because they were constantly frightened of what would happen to them if they encountered any French Indian allies along the way. The French used their Indian friends to keep track of Braddock’s regiment. The stories of Indian war tactics that included scalpings along with news of two families being killed by Indians near Fort Cumberland had an overwhelming mental effect on them.
On July 9, during Braddock’s second crossing of the Monongahela River west of Turtle Creek, his troops collided with a French army led by a French Captain named Beaujeu. Beaujeu’s army consisted of 900 men, most of which were Indians. Because of surprise of colliding into each other and the war screams of the Indians that more than likely enhanced the mental state of Braddock’s troops, the French were stronger and more powerful. The French won this battle with only 8 percent casualties. The 66 percent of British casualties included the Death of General Braddock. He was shot in battle on July 9, but did not die until July 13. He was buried on July 14 in the road near the head of the column. The site for his burial was chosen to prevent the French and Indians from desecrating his grave. Washington had two horses shot out from under him and bullets pierced his clothes, but he came out with not one scratch on him. In the end and after other battles, the British won the French and Indian war. That is why we speak the English language.

MY OPINION

I think that this was a very good and detailed story. As for Braddock, I definitely think that he and his superiors should have dealt with the upcoming psychological and disciplinary problems of their troops before this campaign was to start. If they would have, the outcome may have been totally different. Braddock’s regiment was over double the size of the French in this battle. I do, however, believe that even though the British lost this battle due to the number of casualties, they won in terms of other areas. They won because of the lessons George Washington learned from this battle causing the British to fix these problems for upcoming battles and they won because of what the road to the Ohio Valley did for the settlers.
JEFFERSON’S WAR

SUMMARY #2
Thomas Jefferson felt that he had finished his duty to this country in writing the Declaration of Independence, therefore, causing him to resign his position he held in Congress and return home to Virginia in the fall of 1776. This, of course, made George Washington very angry especially because of the country being in danger and needing good leaders. Jefferson’s idleness sparked Washington to write a letter in March of 1779 to Jefferson’s neighbor in Virginia explaining in a round about way how upset he really was with Jefferson. Washington was not the only one disappointed in Jefferson. A Virginia politician named Richard Henry Lee was also upset with Jefferson and straight up asked him to please give up his enjoyments at home to be able to help win the war. Others who were resentful included future chief justice John Marshall who was a distant cousin of Jefferson.

Jefferson repeatedly turned down offers to serve his country at a national level, saying that he was needed at home and could not leave. Without coming right out and saying it, Jefferson gave the impression that his wife was ill. She did die in 1782 after giving birth to their sixth child. Some people believed that Jefferson was telling the truth, while others believed he was lying because his wife was not to ill to make all the previous trips back and forth to Washington with him.

In 1779, Jefferson ran for governor of Virginia. Some believed that the reason for this was because George Washington was upset with him along with the threat to his state of Virginia. In May of this year, a British force of 1,800 men wrecked the Virginia coast. In the next month of June, Jefferson was elected governor. He was elected for a second term in 1780, giving him a total of 24 months service. At first, he proved his ability to lead even though it was obvious he did not want this position. He only went home twice in two years. He ordered the assembly to improve the militia and ordered the broad war to prepare a plan.
of defense. This caused the establishment of armories and procurement of weapons along
with the erection of coastal batteries and the appointment of express riders and sentries, but
he did not appoint a general officer to direct all the military operations. He was constantly
warned by Washington to call up the militia, but always refused.

On December 31, 1780, a force led by Colonel Benedict Arnold arrived in
Jamestown and made a path of destruction all the way to the capital. The even wrecked
Jefferson’s residence while he cowardly hid in a barn across the river and watched while it
happened. Washington stepped in to help, but the British sent in 2,000 more troops led by
General William Phillips to help Arnold. Phillips and Arnold struck a second time, April of
1781.

Jefferson’s term ended on June 2 of this year and he went on back home to
Monticello. The British went there to get him, but Jack Jouett headed him off. Jefferson
Barely escaped.

Jefferson eventually stated he was leaving politics. He pretty much said that his
family came first, then his estate and then his books. He acknowledged this in his 1781
retirement statement. The bottom line here is that Jefferson just wasn’t into his job. It is
not what he wanted to do. I fell that the only reason he ran for this position was because he
felt obligated to. Washington should have realized that this would cause future problems.
Jefferson was just more involved with what was going on at home than what was going on
with the war. He wanted to write a book about Virginia, not lead it. This, in turn, caused
him to make bad decisions, which caused turmoil for Virginia.
LEWIS & CLARK
AN ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN

SUMMARY #5 & #6

Top Map: Lewis and Clark’s Outbound Route Shown in Red, Inbound in Blue
Meriwether Lewis, Secretary to President Thomas Jefferson, was chosen by Jefferson to serve as captain to lead the Corps of Discovery on a journey into the unknown to explore the uncharted West. Jefferson believed that there was a passageway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. If so, this would open a world of opportunity for the Americans. There was not a passageway between the two oceans, but the only way to find out was to plan an expedition to explore this land. Because of the lack of detail in maps circa 1803, Lewis had a map collector make a special map that showed North America from the Pacific coast to the Mississippi. This map showed everything that was known up to the Mandan villages. It even showed what the Rockies might look like, but the area that lay between the Mandans west was blank. The only way to fill that blank was to have somebody walk that territory to measure it and describe the people, the rivers and mountains, and plant life, not to mention the commercial and agricultural possibilities of the regions. Jefferson won an approval from Congress for this visionary project on February 28, 1803. This adventurous endeavor would become one of America’s greatest stories ever told.

Meriwether Lewis wanted to recruit his good friend William Lewis as his co-captain. Lewis served under Clark when he was captain of the regular army during which time they became very good friends. Lewis wondered if Clark would accept this position for the mission because he didn’t want Clark to think he would be serving under him. He wanted him as an equal. He asked Clark to join him by writing him, “If there is anything ... which would induce you to participate with me in it’s fatigues, it’s dangers and it’s honors, believe me there is no man on earth with whom I should feel equal pleasure in sharing them as with yourself.” In Clark’s response when accepting the position, he wrote back saying, “My friend I assure you no man lives with whom I would prefer to undertake such a trip as yourself.” Both were a perfect
choice to lead the Corps of Discovery, which consisted of 34 members, the 34th being Captain Lewis’ Newfoundland dog named Seaman. Lewis and Clark were both six-footed Virginian army officers who were also experienced outdoorsman.

To prepare for the journey that lied ahead, Lewis was educated for months learning everything from astronomy, botany and navigation to medicine and biology. He also spent a lot of time gathering up all the supplies that the expedition was going to need. With the $2,500 Congress allocated for the expedition, Lewis accumulated almost two tons of supplies. Some of those supplies consisted of mathematical instruments like surveyor’s and hand compasses, quadrants, telescopes, thermometers, sextants, plotting instruments and chronometers. He gathered camping supplies like pliers and chisels, handsaws and hatchets, steels for striking to make fire, cloth to be oiled and sewn into tents and sheets, fishing hooks and lines, writing paper and ink, soap and so on. He also bought presents to give to the Indians. They included pocket mirrors, sewing needles and scissors, sewing thread and silk ribbon, ivory combs and handkerchiefs, yards of bright-colored cloth and colorful beads, etc. He gathered clothing for the members of the corps like coats, socks, flannel shirts and stockings. He stocked up on arms and ammunitions along with medicine and medical supplies. He even made sure they had a traveling library, which consisted of books like Barton’s Elements of Botany, a four-volume dictionary, tables for finding longitude and latitude amongst others. He made sure that the corps was prepared for their upcoming journey.

Among the original members recruited for the corps, two were dismissed before they reached Fort Mandan. Private Moses Reed was dismissed being convicted of desertion and Private John Newman was dismissed for being convicted of mutinous acts. Newman was also sentenced to 100 lashes on his bare backs. Both stayed with the group during the winter at Fort
Mandan, named after the Mandan Indians who helped them, but had to perform hard labor as part of their punishment, after which they were sent down river. Two French-Canadian fur traders were recruited as interpreters and to replace Reed and Newman. Their names were Jean Baptiste LePage and Toussaint Charbonneau. Charbonneau brought along his Shoshone Indian wife named Sacagawea, meaning Bird Woman in Hiditsa, and their infant son named Jean Baptiste Charbonneau. Captain Clark nicknamed the infant “Pompy. Pompy was only fifty-five days old when the corps left Fort Mandan on April 7, 1805. Sacagawea, being the only woman of the corps, was an asset to the expedition because she could speak Shoshone and Hiditsa. Along the way they encountered her band of Indians, which was lead by her brother who she hadn’t seen in about five years. Because of this, the corps was able to get much needed horses from her people. Her husband, Charbonneau could speak Hidatsa and French. Out of all the members of the corps, those who distinguished themselves based on their contributions to the mission were treated individually as unique members. Of all 33 there were a total of twelve who made no special mark, but Lewis gave praise and thanks to them as well for sticking it out. Clark took with them his slave named York who was treated as an equal to the other members of the corps. York played a big role in the expedition. He hunted, cooked and performed hard labor along with staying faithful to Clark and the expedition. Clark granted York his freedom about ten years after the completion of the expedition. It is reported that he died of cholera sometime before 1832. During this very long journey, Lewis and Clark kept journals that told all the stories of their adventures. The journals told of all the Indian tribes they met along the way and every thing there was to tell about the land they walked. The journals even consisted of drawings of fish and plants and so on.
Lewis and Clark made it through many dangerous obstacles during their mission almost meeting their death on numerous occasions. At the beginning of the trek up the Missouri they stopped at a place called Tavern Cave. At this place sandstone cliffs stood three hundred feet high along the southern side of the river. Lewis and Clark decided to climb to a huge cavern located at the top so that they could engrave their names into a register located in the tavern. Lewis slipped and fell about twenty feet, but saved himself from falling any farther by driving his knife into a crevice of the rock. Another time Lewis poisoned himself by tasting ore they found in a bluff. He saved himself that time by purging himself with salts. During an elk-hunting trip in August of 1806, Lewis was accidentally shot in the thigh by Pierre Cruzatte. At first Lewis thought Blackfeet shot him. Cruzatte admitted his mistake when the corps found no evidence of the Indians. Lewis endured a very painful healing process, but did forgive Cruzatte.

Captain Clark was the expedition’s cartographer keeping careful compass records, measuring distances and producing detailed strip maps for areas between major landmarks. He kept notes on everything from native botanical and zoological specimens to potential mineral deposits.

At the end of the expedition, Lewis returned home in Albemarle County, Virginia to spend Christmas with his mother. Afterwards, he went to Washington to receive his rewards for successfully completing the expedition. He received $1,228, a warrant for 1,600 acres of land, and was named Governor of the territory of Upper Louisiana. He then traveled to Philadelphia to find editors and publishers for the journals he and Clark kept. He began to have a drinking problem, which caused problems in his relationship with Jefferson, not to mention it caused him to delay returning to St. Louis to begin his duties as governor. He was a year late. After fleeing St. Louis he mysteriously died on October 10, 1809 from two gunshot wounds, one in the forehead and one in the breast while staying at a roadhouse along the Natchez Trace. With many
robbers coming up and down the river in this area, nobody knows if it was murder or suicide. Today is the 196 anniversary of Lewis’ death. In 1846 a monument was erected in his honor next to the tavern where he was buried. Clark’s awards for successfully completing the expedition were $1,228, a warrant for 1,600 acres of land and a double appointment as Brigadier General of Militia and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Upper Louisiana Territory. In 1808, Clark married Julia Hancock. They later had a son and named him Meriwether Lewis Clark in honor of Lewis. After hearing of Lewis’ death and going to Washington to visit Lewis’ family and President Jefferson, Clark went on to Philadelphia to arrange for the rewriting of the journals they kept of the expedition. Along with Clark’s map, they were finally published in 1814. Clark later became Governor of the Missouri Territory before Missouri became a state. Throughout his life he was well respected by Native American, traders and trappers. He died of natural causes on September 1, 1838 in St. Louis.

What a great adventure this must have been. Mapping over 7700 miles of uncharted territory and opening western routes for settlers. Thomas Jefferson formed a treaty between the settlers and the Indians, which was signed by both Lewis and Clark. America grew by about one million square miles.
“NOW DEFEND YOURSELF, YOU DAMNED RASCAL!”

SUMMARY #7

Andrew Jackson

Thomas Hart Benton
Andrew Jackson and Thomas Hart Benton became good friends after Benton personally presented at the Hermitage, a plan, which he convinced to recruit three regiments of volunteers. Being very impressed by this, Jackson made Benton his personal aide. He helped to raise a force of over 2000 men. Not only was he Jackson’s personal aide, be he also became colonel of one of the infantry regiments. By early 1813, this force of men was on its way to defend New Orleans.

While Benton was in Washington presenting Jackson’s claims to be reimbursed for the expenses he incurred while leading his men 800 miles back home to Nashville, Jackson was trying to make peace between two of his army officers, who between them passed a challenge for a duel. These two officers were Major WILLIAM Carroll and Esign Lyttleton Johnston. This argument was settled but in the process, Benton’s brother Jesse, who was Johnston’s second, got into an argument with Major Carroll and ended up fighting a duel with him. Andrew Jackson was Carroll’s second.

Carroll was known to be a poor pistol shooter. Jackson arranged the rules for the duel. The two fighters had to stand back to back and ten feet apart. When the signal was given they would wheel and fire their guns. When the signal was given, Jesse wheeled around in a squatting position and got shot in the rear end. I am sure that his pride was hurt more than his butt! What an embarrassing situation this must have been. No wonder it was laughed about for years to come.

Benton was very upset with Jackson after he returned to Tennessee and learned about what had happened to his brother. He felt that Jackson was not acting like a friend in handling the situation the way that he did. Because of all this, Jackson and Benton ended up in a duel against each other. Their duel ended up as a bloody brawl in which
Benton was stabbed five times, but shot Jackson in the shoulder. Benton sealed his victory by breaking Jackson’s sword across his knee.

On Jackson’s orders, Benton stayed in Nashville for recruiting, but left the army early in 1815 and ended up in Missouri where he became one of the first U.S. Senators. Ten years went by before Jackson was to see Benton again. Jackson was elected a Senator of Tennessee in 1823. He arrived at the capitol to take his seat in the Senate Chamber, which just so happened to be right next to Benton. Both Jackson and Benton turned down offers from other senators willing to change seats with them. They were also on the same committee. They finally ended up getting over the past and becoming good friends once again. Much of Jackson’s fame came from the help of Benton. He stuck by Jackson from this time on and through thick and thin. He played a big role in Jackson becoming president in 1828.

When the Senate charged Jackson with improper conduct when he removed all the government money from the Bank of the US, Benton vowed not to rest until the Senate expunged the resolution from the official record. After three years in a row of praising Jackson in every session of Congress, in 1836 it became a national issue. He put his whole heart into clearing Jackson’s name. When the expunging was voted on, it passed by a vote of 24 to 19.

Here you have two men who knew what the true meaning of friendship really is. A true friend is one that will forgive you for your bad choices. They started out being very good friends and even though they had a terrible disagreement which caused their friendship to end, they went back to being even better friends.
As bad as the outcome of their argument was, they found it in their hearts to forgive one another and go back to having the friendship they had once before. Andrew Jackson was a very lucky man to have had such a devoted and loving friend as he did in Thomas Hart Benton. I have always believed that you are truly blessed if you can find one true friend before your life comes to an end. Jackson was definitely blessed!
TOM QUICK’S REVENGE

SUMMARY #4

"Hero of many a wondrous tale,
Full of his dev'lish cunning!
Tom never flunked or turned pale,
Following on the Indian's trail,
Shooting as he was running."
Tom Quick Jr., known as the Indian Slayer or the Avenger of the Delaware, was born a year after his family moved to Milford from New York in 1733. Tom’s family got along very well with the Indians along the Delaware. Young Tom became best friends with an Indian boy named Mushwink whose father was a Delaware chieftain. Young Tom and Mushwink played, ate, and sleep together as if they were brothers. The Quick’s Indian neighbors always brought them presents and taught them how to speak their language along with how to farm and hunt. Young Tom became a very good hunter. As the young friends grew older, peacefulness between the two races stopped.

William Penn, who was leader of the first few hundred shiploads of political and religious refugees to arrive in 1682, wrote back to London telling the others there how much better everything was here. This caused more and more immigrants to come. William Penn’s sons wanted to add to their real estate by pushing for a promise that was made to their father by the Delaware Indians. He was promised that he could add to his land as far as a man could walk in a day and a half. This was okay with the Indians at first, but by the time 1737 rolled around there were lawyers involved stating that any man could make the walk. At this time, the Penn brothers hired fast couriers to make the walk for them, helping them to gain miles and miles of land. The Indians started to worry about loosing all there homes, land, and burial grounds of their ancestors. The Indians, by now, are planning to wipe out the white race. By 1754 the French and Indian War began with the French recruiting a large amount of Indians to fight on their side.

One day in February of 1756, young Tom, his father and his brother-in-law worked all night in their gristmill, leaving at dawn to cross the frozen Delaware and head for home. When they got halfway across the river they were ambushed by a group of Indians. One of those
Indians was Mushwink, young Tom’s boyhood best friend. Mushwink shot Tom’s father. The older Tom pleaded with his son and son-in-law to leave him to die and to get out of there while they could. They did what he said and when the coast was clear, they turned back to see what fate had come to their father. The condition they found his dead body in was enough to drive young Tom mad to the point he vowed revenge on the whole Indian race. He didn’t care if they were men, women or children. He set a pact to himself to kill as many as he could before he died himself.

Tom had a special rifle that he called “Long Tom” that he carried with him pretty much everywhere. Sometimes he would leave home without it running into an Indian who didn’t know who he was. He would patronize the Indian until he got him close to a cliff at which time he would push him off to his death. After the war was over, Tom went into a tavern where he came across Mushwink who was boasting about killing the older Tom. Young Tom took him out of the tavern and shot him dead. Tom was arrested for this because of the war being over, but managed to escape with the help of friends. He killed many Indians over the years, until his death of smallpox at age sixty-two in the year 1796. On his deathbed he asked that a Delaware Indian be brought close enough so he could kill his 100th Indian before dying. His 99th and last kill was Mushwink.

Most of the white settlers looked at him as a hero because he protected them. They would take him in and feed him believing that he was justified in his actions. In 1889 an eleven-foot monument was erected in young Tom’s memory. It is located in the spot where the Indians scalped his father.

I can see where Tom Jr. was angry and wanted to avenge his father’s death, especially because his father was such a good friend to the Indians and because of the fact that Mushwink
was supposed to be his friend, but betrayed him. I can also see why the Indians wanted to protect their own homes and land. I don’t, however, believe that the young Tom should have killed innocent Indians, especially women and children saying, “Nits make lice”. My belief is that if he wanted revenge for his father’s death, he should have started with Mushwink instead of ending with him. I don’t believe that all persons are responsible for the decisions made by one or a select few. Then again, the Indians had a plan to wipe out the white race, so maybe what Tom did to so many of them kept the white race from being destroyed. The ninety-nine Indians that he killed were that many less to kill the whites. After seventy-five years of peace between the whites and the Indians, I would have thought there would have been a way to share with each other and keep the peace between them. I guess that selfishness took over.
ULYSSES S. GRANT
YAZOO RIVER BENDER

SUMMARY #9
Major General Henry Halleck, who was nicknamed “Old Brains”, was very upset that General Ulysses S. Grant was getting all the credit for taking both Forts Henry and Donaldson. Halleck believed that he deserved all the credit so he started a rumor that General Grant went back to his bad habit of drinking. Because of this rumor, Grant was removed from command after the Battle of Shiloh, but later regained the field of command in 1862.

Grant had to carry the baggage of being a drunk for years afterwards. His wife sometimes traveled with him, but it was when she was away that he overwhelmingly missed her to the point that he would have a drink. Being as though he was a small man, it took only one drink for him to begin slurring his words. This didn’t make him an alcoholic. He just couldn’t handle it.

When commanding the 21st Illinois Infantry Regiment during the Civil War, Grant started to climb rapidly in rank. Lincoln ignored the stories of Grant being a lucky drunk until he became worried of the outcome at Vicksburg. Grant had been planning schemes to get his troops around the delta country between the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers, at which time Lincoln and Secretary of War Ed Stanton sent Charles A. Dana to travel with Grants army to watch over him. The victory of Vicksburg was top priority for the government. Grant’s aide, John Rawlings, put out word that anyone caught giving alcohol to Grant would be severely punished.

Dana arrived with total freedom, soon becoming Grant’s number one fan. Another to fan of Grant’s was a newspaperman named Sylvanus Cadwallader who was also given total freedom. Ninety-two years later Cadwallader’s book, “Three Years With Grant” was published starting a controversy over an incident of what really happened
during Grant’s steamship ride north on the Yazoo River to the town of Satartia. Grant supposedly took this trip to see if there was anything to the rumor that Confederate General Joe Johnston was headed in their direction.

Cadwallader took another steamer called the Diligence. While he was headed back down the river to Chickasaw Bayou and Hayne’s bluff, he met with the other steamboat that was carrying Grant. Cadwallader said that Grant and his cavalry were transferred to the Diligence and that Grant had been drinking. He said all kinds of things about Grant being drunk which were the total opposite of what Dana had to say.

Dana said that Grant suffered from migraine headaches. The way he acted when having one of these headaches might make others think he had been drinking to the point of acting drunk. After the Diligence arrived at Chickasaw Bayou, Cadwallader said he caught Grant with a glass of whiskey in his hand. When Cadwallader got him off the ship, Grant supposedly climbed up on his borrowed horse named Kangaroo and began to ride recklessly through camps, scattering campfires, and riding over soldiers.

It seems to me, after reading this article that Cadwallader didn’t have much proof to back up a lot of the stuff he wrote in his book about Grant. I think that Cadwallader made up most of the stuff he wrote to gain his own fame as a newspaperman. He needed to start a controversy to become well-known himself.

Fortunately, Grant turned out to be a very good general who did exactly what he was expected to do. He conquered three armies, won a peace with the Confederacy and prepared the foundations for the reconciliation of the North and South through his terms to General Lee. Because of all the good he did, he was forgiven for a few sips of whiskey here and there.