



AUDIO CONNOISSEUR®

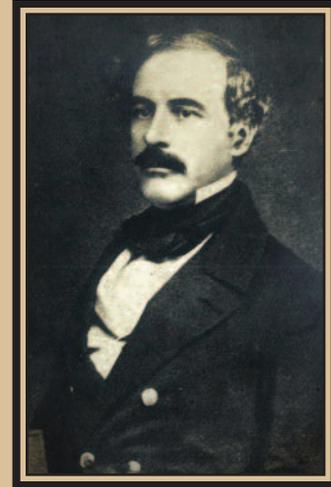
THE FINEST IN RECORDED LITERATURE

R.E. Lee I
From birth until the opening battles of the Civil War ★



Table of Contents, Duration, Start Times, & Maps

R.E. Lee by Douglas Southall Freeman (1886–1953) tells the extraordinary story of a simple man caught up in the frenzy of a nation gone mad. It is a story that could easily have come from the pen of an ancient poet: a noble man of celebrated lineage pursues a life of virtue and honor, but is torn from the arms of his loving family by a fate he cannot avoid, and ends up fighting heroically against overwhelming odds, finally succumbing to a cruel destiny he does not deserve. A famous line by a Greek tragedian could easily have been written for Lee to speak: “The gods are mysterious and utterly without pity.” Lee himself, however, retained a powerful faith which was never shaken.



.

In four volumes, Douglas Southall Freeman’s famous, Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of the renowned Confederate general covers his entire life from his birth at the family’s Virginia estate of Stratford in 1807 to his death in Lexington, Virginia in 1870. It is a tale steeped in personal tragedy almost from the beginning, as Lee’s famous father, General Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee was forced to leave Virginia in disgrace owing to debts. He never saw his infant son again and died on Georgia’s Cumberland Island en route from the Caribbean. Young Robert was raised by his aristocratic mother, Ann Carter Lee, who imbued her son with sterling qualities of personal honor and gentle manners. As his mother was then too poor to give him a private college education, Lee instead pursued a military career by an appointment to West Point, graduating in 1829. He subsequently accepted a commission in the United States Army. It was a fateful career decision.

The cover shows a portrait of R.E. Lee at age 31 in 1838, as a Lieutenant of Engineers in the U.S. Army, painted by William Edward West. The portrait in the insert above is of R.E. Lee in civilian dress around age 43 when he was a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel of Engineers, c. 1850.

VOLUME ONE in this magnificent series carries the listener along on Lee's splendid spiritual odyssey across the nineteenth century American landscape during the nation's crucial transition from coastal colonies to continent-spanning global power. It is in no small measure due to men like Lee with their unswerving dedication, loyalty, and performance in the United States Army that our nation made this astounding transformation. As an officer in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lee not only participated in the strengthening of coastal defenses, but contributed mightily to the success of commerce on the Mississippi River with his brilliant design of dikes in the vicinity of St. Louis, a project that was completed against great odds. River traffic thus became possible from New Orleans all the way to Minnesota. It was during this early part of Lee's formative years with the corps (1831) that he met and married Mary Custis, great granddaughter of George and Martha Washington. The Lees were to have seven children together and enjoy a life of strong familial ties to the end of their days. Lee's touching devotion, love, and care for his family are one of the most striking aspects of his life.

.

With the onset of the Mexican War, notoriety and promotion finally came to Captain Lee. Under the command of General Winfield Scott, Lee distinguished himself above all others, winning the undying gratitude and admiration of Scott. At war's end, Lee was breveted a Colonel. In 1852, Lee was appointed Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point. He was reluctant to accept the post, but, the War Department insisted and he obeyed. During his three years at West Point, Superintendent Lee improved the buildings and curriculum while spending much time with the cadets, many of whom he would soon encounter again as fellow officers in the Army of Northern Virginia, or as foes in the Union Army. When Lee finally left West Point in 1855, he was transferred to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Texas, a post he much preferred to that of his old engineer unit.

.

Parents of R.E. Lee:

General Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee, III (1756 - 1818).

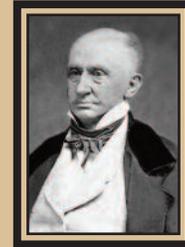
Anne Hill (Carter) Lee (1773 - 1829).



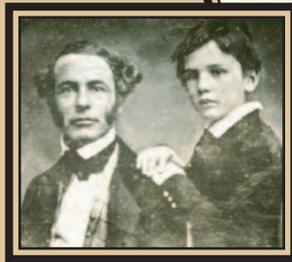
Parents of Mrs. R.E. Lee:

George Washington Parke Custis (1781-1857) photo c. 1855.

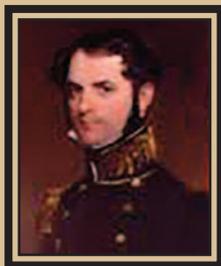
Mary Lee (Fitzhugh) Custis (1788-1853).



R.E. Lee, 38, with his son William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, age 8, c.1845.



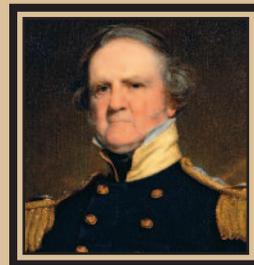
Mary Anna (Custis) Lee (1808 - 1873), portrait painting c. 1828. Photo of her with her son, R.E. Lee, Jr., c.1845.



Sydney Smith Lee (1802 - 1869), older brother of R.E. Lee, was Commander in the U.S. Navy, commandant of the U.S. Naval Academy, and in 1861 Commander in the Confederate Navy.



Captain Andrew Talcott (1797 - 1883), Lee's immediate superior at Fort Monroe.



General Winfield Scott (1786-1866), portrait painted by R. W. Weir in 1855.



Lee spent the next two years under the command of Col. Albert Sidney Johnston protecting settlers from marauding bands of Comanches and Apaches. But, in 1857 he was forced to return to Arlington, the estate of his wife's family, by the death of his father-in-law, George Washington Parke Custis. Lee found the estate much run-down by neglect. Because Mrs. Lee was now a wheelchair-bound invalid, the burden on Lee was great. He occupied the next two years attempting to bring Arlington House and its property back to badly needed prosperity. But, duty called him away in the midst of these labors when John Brown raided Harpers Ferry in 1859. The War Department ordered Lee to Harpers Ferry to suppress the Brown gang, which he swiftly accomplished. He was then ordered back to Texas to resume his duties with his old cavalry regiment.

.

But, by the end of 1860, the growing political tension had finally broken out into open rebellion after the election of Lincoln. Texas left the Union on February 1, 1861, and a bewildered and deeply saddened Lee returned to Washington, where he was offered the command of the Union Army. Unable to raise his hand against his own people, he reluctantly resigned his commission in the U.S. Army and offered his services to his beloved Virginia, hoping all the while for some sort of compromise. None ever appeared. The first volume of **R.E. Lee** ends with Lee's failure to save western Virginia from Union control. With his military reputation under a cloud, and newspaper pejoratives like "Granny Lee" being bandied about, President Jefferson Davis sent Lee southward in early November, 1861 to inspect and fortify the vulnerable Southern coastline all the way to Florida. In Charleston on March 3, 1862 Lee received an urgent summons from Davis to return to Richmond. McClellan and the Union Army of the Potomac were on the move....

.



The insert above displays a portrait of Colonel R.E. Lee in 1859.

VOLUME ONE

R.E. Lee: from birth until the opening battles of the Civil War

Total running time: **24 hours, 35 minutes, 33 seconds**

The duration and start times of chapters may vary slightly depending on how the material is streamed.

DURATION:	START TIME:	TABLE OF CONTENTS:
0:20:55	00:00:00	FORWARD
0:37:47	00:20:55	CHAPTER 1 - A Carriage Goes to Alexandria Family background: mostly a biographical sketch of R. E. Lee's father, Henry "Light Horse" Lee. Robert E. Lee's infancy, at Stratford, VA.
1:06:39	00:58:42	CHAPTER 2 - A Background of Great Traditions Lee's childhood, at Alexandria, VA. His appointment to West Point.
0:29:30	02:05:21	CHAPTER 3 - First Impressions of West Point Plebe year. Cadet life at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY.
0:56:36	02:34:51	CHAPTER 4 - The Education of a Cadet Upperclassman years. Cadet life at the U.S. Military Academy. Lee's studies and reading.
1:31:34	03:31:27	CHAPTER 5 - Sorrow and Scandal Come to the Lees Lee's mother dies. He takes his first post, at Cockspur Island, SC, where he works on the construction of what would become Fort Pulaski. His half-brother involved in scandal.
0:25:18	05:03:01	CHAPTER 6 -Marriage Cockspur Island and Fort Monroe, continued; Lee marries Mary Custis.
0:36:26	05:28:19	CHAPTER 7 - The Ancient War of Staff and Line The Southampton slave revolt (Nat Turner's Rebellion). Post politics at Fort Monroe.
0:23:56	06:04:45	CHAPTER 8 - Lee Is Brought Close to Frustration Lee stationed to Washington DC, and, like many another active man, doesn't like it. Mrs. Lee's first illnesses.
0:43:07	06:28:41	CHAPTER 9 - Youth Conspires Against a Giant Lee starts work on two Mississippi River projects: to regularize rapids at Des Moines, IA; to remove islands that were threatening navigation and jeopardizing the commerce of the newly founded town of St. Louis, MO.
0:25:59	07:11:48	CHAPTER 10 - Lee Studies His Ancestors Lee's interest in his own genealogy, used as a canvas by Freeman to detail Lee's forebears.

Continues on the page following.

.

DURATION:	START TIME:	
0:37:09	17:50:06	CHAPTER 26 - On a Train en Route to Richmond Lee's character and aptitudes on the eve of his participation in the War between the States.
0:22:01	18:27:15	CHAPTER 27 - Virginia Looks to Lee In Richmond, Lee is appointed Commander in Chief of the military and naval forces of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
0:41:39	18:49:16	CHAPTER 28 - Can Virginia Be Defended? Lee sets to organizing the defense of Virginia, which for two months does not yet belong to the Confederate States.
0:38:41	19:30:55	CHAPTER 29 - The Volunteers Are Called Out Lee deals with the logistics and politics of mobilizing and arming Virginia, and the uncertain allegiance of its western counties.
0:36:21	20:09:36	CHAPTER 30 - The Mobilization Completed From an office in Richmond, Lee completes the mobilization of Virginia's forces. Virginia joins the Confederacy and they are turned over to Confederate command.
0:31:48	20:45:57	CHAPTER 31 - The War Opens on Three Virginia Fronts The situation in western Virginia; the battles of Rich Mountain and (First) Manassas.
0:27:57	21:17:45	CHAPTER 32 - Lee Discloses a Weakness Difficulties on the Allegheny Front; Lee, too conciliatory, fails to solve them.
0:52:49	21:45:42	CHAPTER 33 - Lee Conducts His First Campaign Under Lee's direct command, a botched engagement at Cheat Mountain.
0:18:59	22:38:31	CHAPTER 34 - Politics in War: A Sorry Story Two political appointees, Generals Floyd and Wise, sent to the Kanawha Valley in western Virginia; their continual infighting bodes ill for any military success.
0:37:38	22:57:30	CHAPTER 35 - Politics, the Rain Demon, and Another Failure Lee achieves a measure of coordination in the Kanawha Valley, but the Confederates finally withdraw without engaging the enemy; West Virginia secedes from Virginia back to the Union.
1:00:25	23:35:08	CHAPTER 36 - An Easy Lesson in Combating Sea-power Lee is put in charge of the defenses of the southern coasts of the Confederacy, especially Savannah and Charleston.

Total running time:
24 hours, 35 minutes, 33 seconds

*The duration and start times
of chapters may vary slightly
depending on how the material
is streamed.*



.





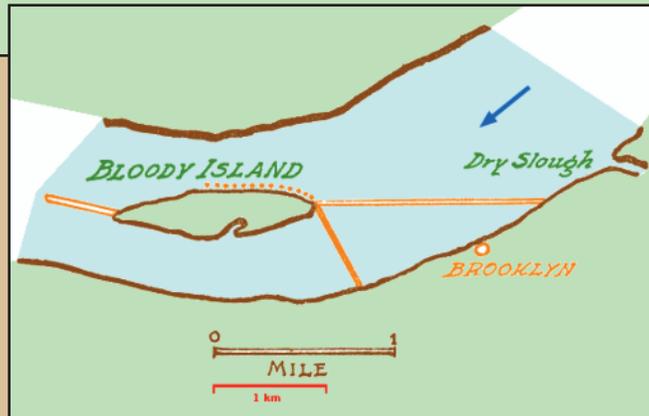
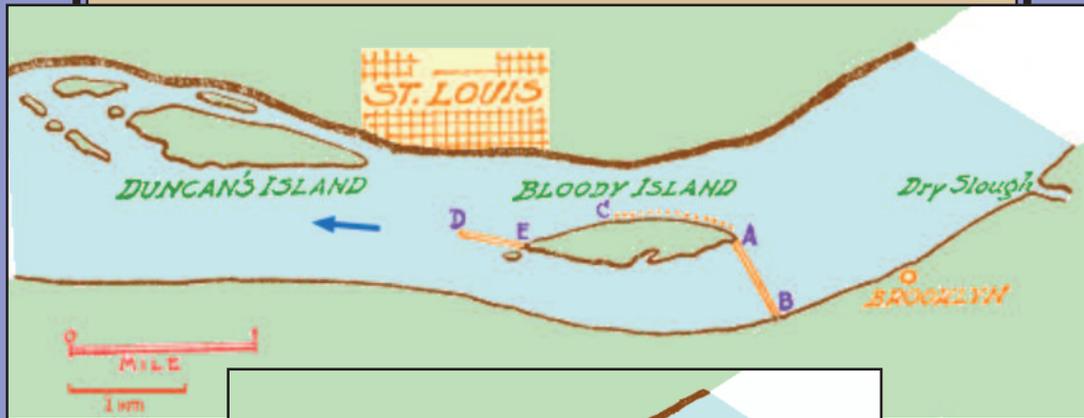
MAPS

- Page 10 Plans showing work in the Mississippi channel, at St. Louis.
- Page 11 Two lines of advance into Mexico.
Terrain near Cerro Gordo, as assumed.
- Page 12 Sketch of turning movement, American right wing, battle of Cerro Gordo.
Plans showing possible approaches to Mexico City.
- Page 13 Plans showing difficulties of advance on Mexico City from San Augustin.
Position of American and Mexican forces adjacent to San Angel road, at
nightfall, August 19, 1847.
- Page 14 General situation at beginning of American pursuit of Mexican army
to Churubusco, about 7 A.M., August 20, 1847.
- Page 15 Disposition of American forces for final attack at Churubusco
and Partales Ranch, August 20, 1847.
Alternative lines of American attack on Mexico City, as presented
to General Scott, September 7, 1847.
- Page 16 Position of American troops for attack on Chapultepec, September 13, 1847.
- Page 17 Virginia's exposed northern frontier.
Sketch illustrating how Norfolk could be masked.
- Page 18 The roads toward the Ohio River from Staunton.
- Page 19 Situation on the Allegheny front, about August 1, 1861.
- Page 20 The plan of attack on Cheat Mountain and down Tygart's Valley.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Page 21, 22 Douglas Southall Freeman





Plans showing work in the Mississippi channel, at St. Louis.

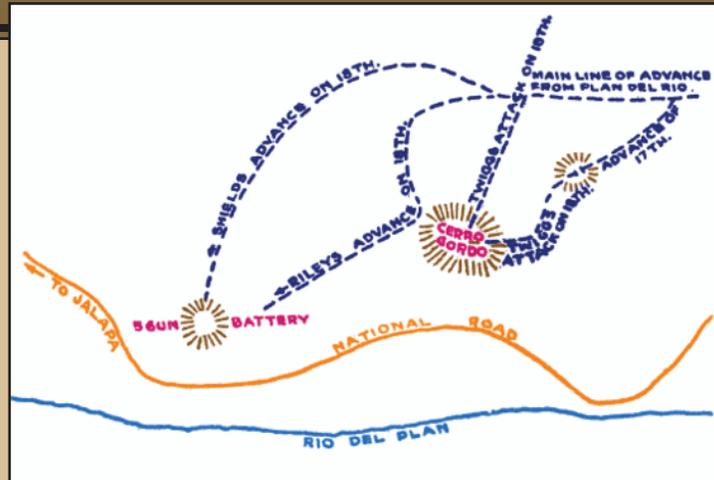




Two lines of advance into Mexico, above.

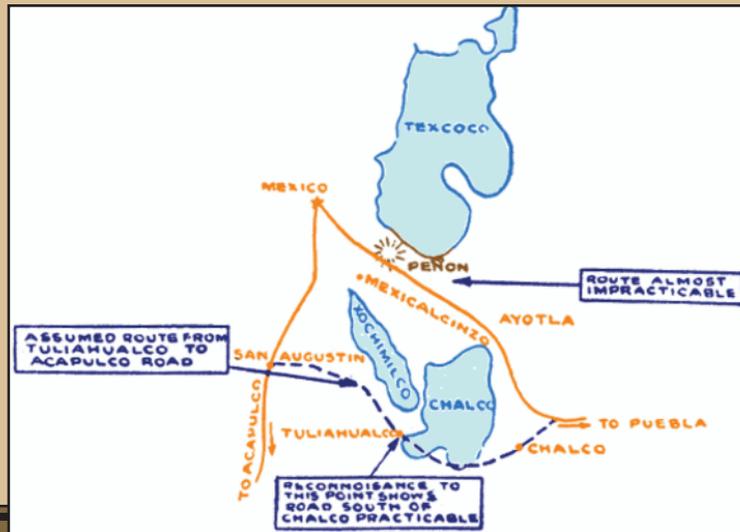
Terrain near Cerro Gordo, as assumed, below.

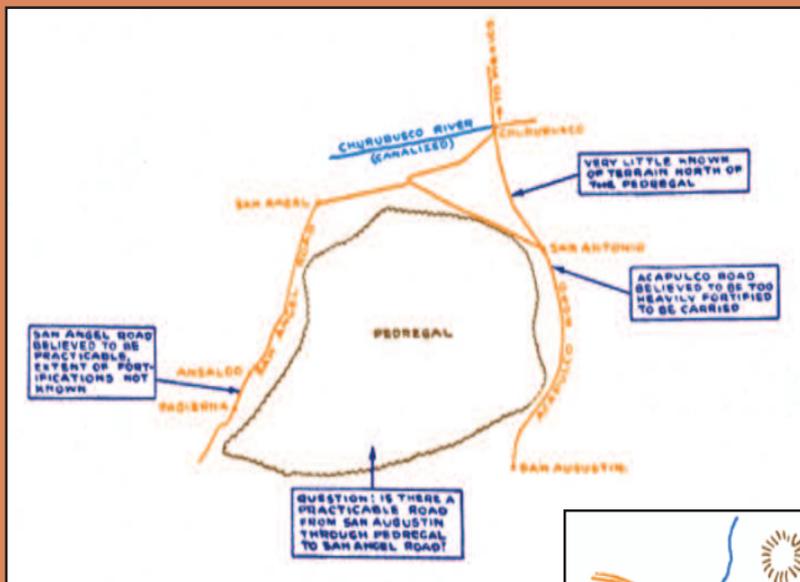




Sketch of turning movement, American right wing, battle of Cerro Gordo, above.

Plans showing possible approaches to Mexico City, below.

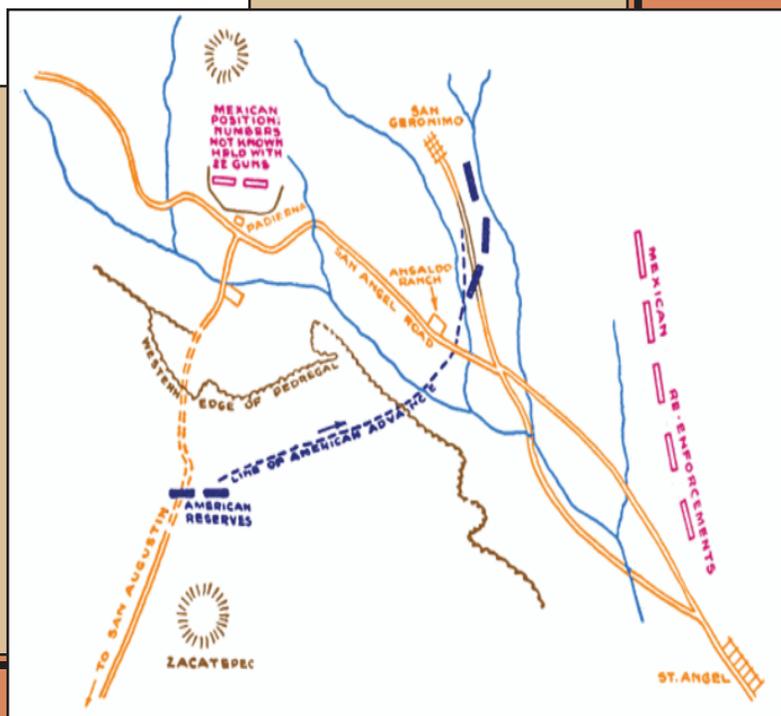


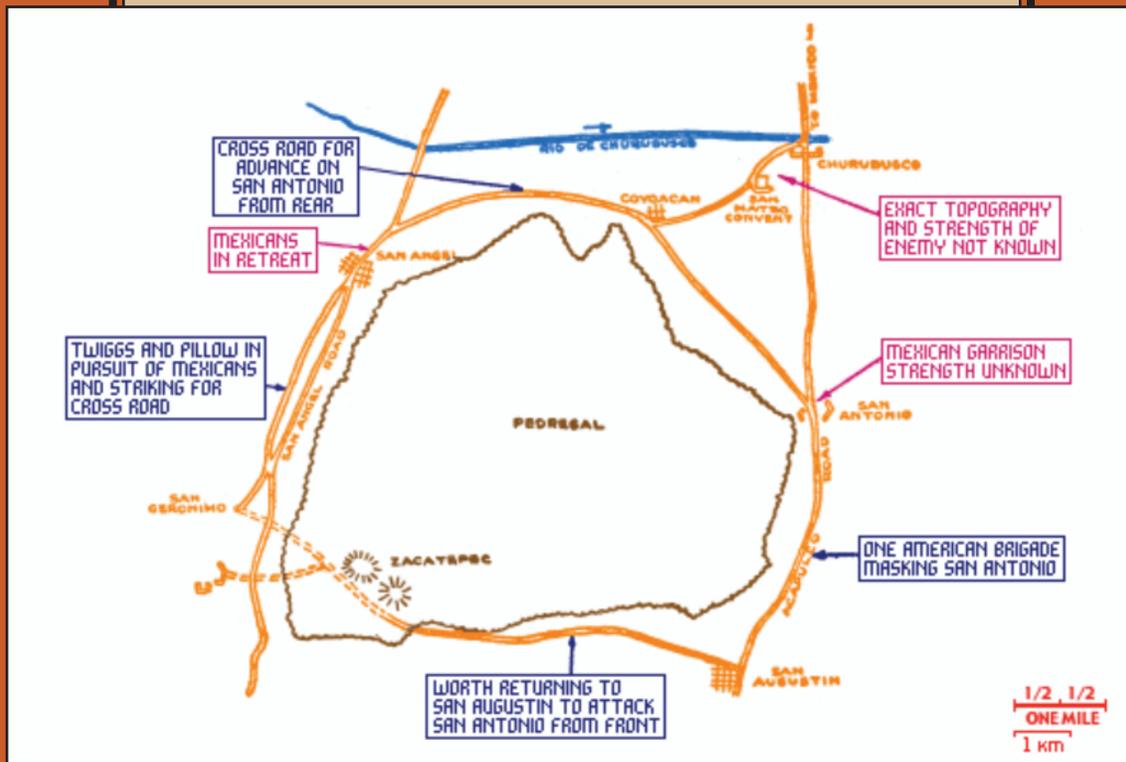


Plans showing difficulties of advance on Mexico City from San Augustin, left.



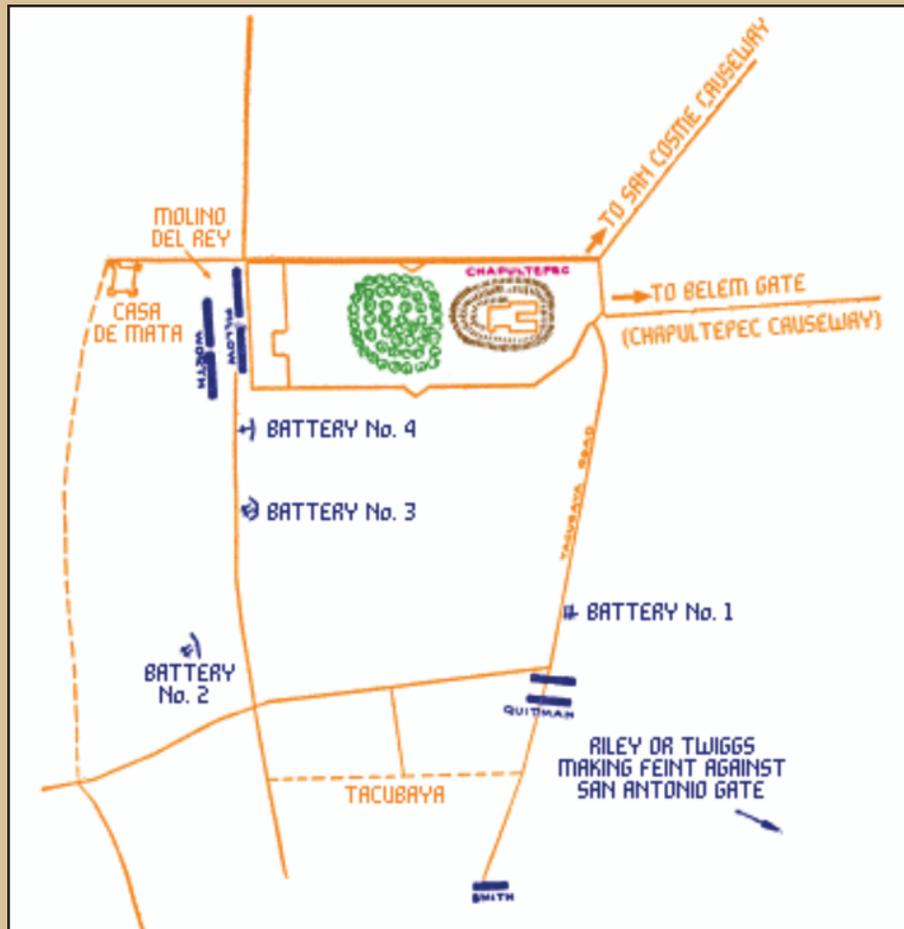
Position of American and Mexican forces adjacent to San Angel, at nightfall, August 19, 1847, right.





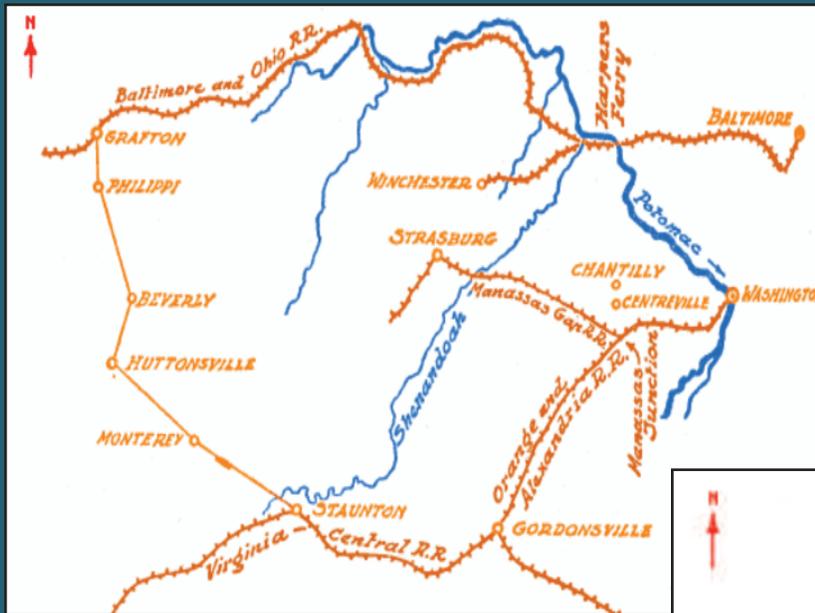
General situation at beginning of American pursuit of Mexican army to Churubusco, about 7 A.M., August 20, 1847.





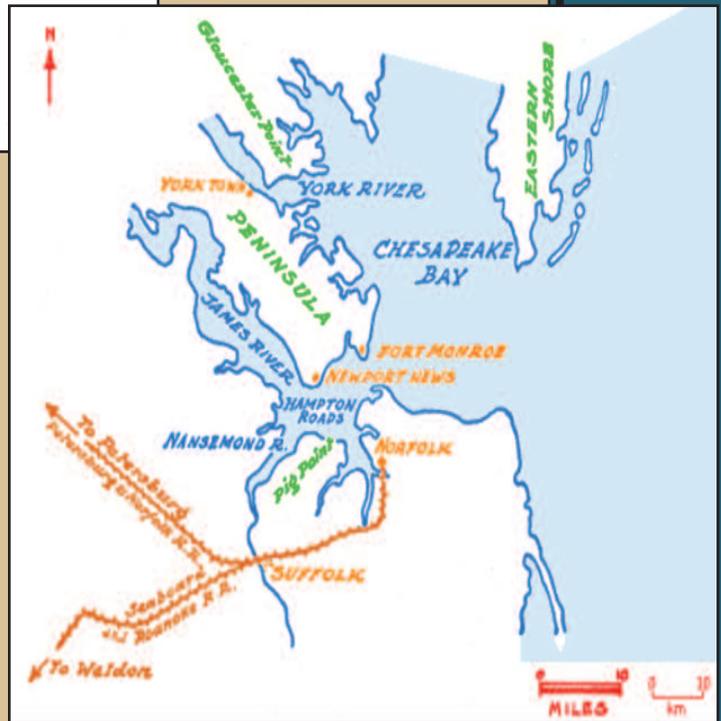
Position of American troops for attack on Chapultepec, September 13, 1847.

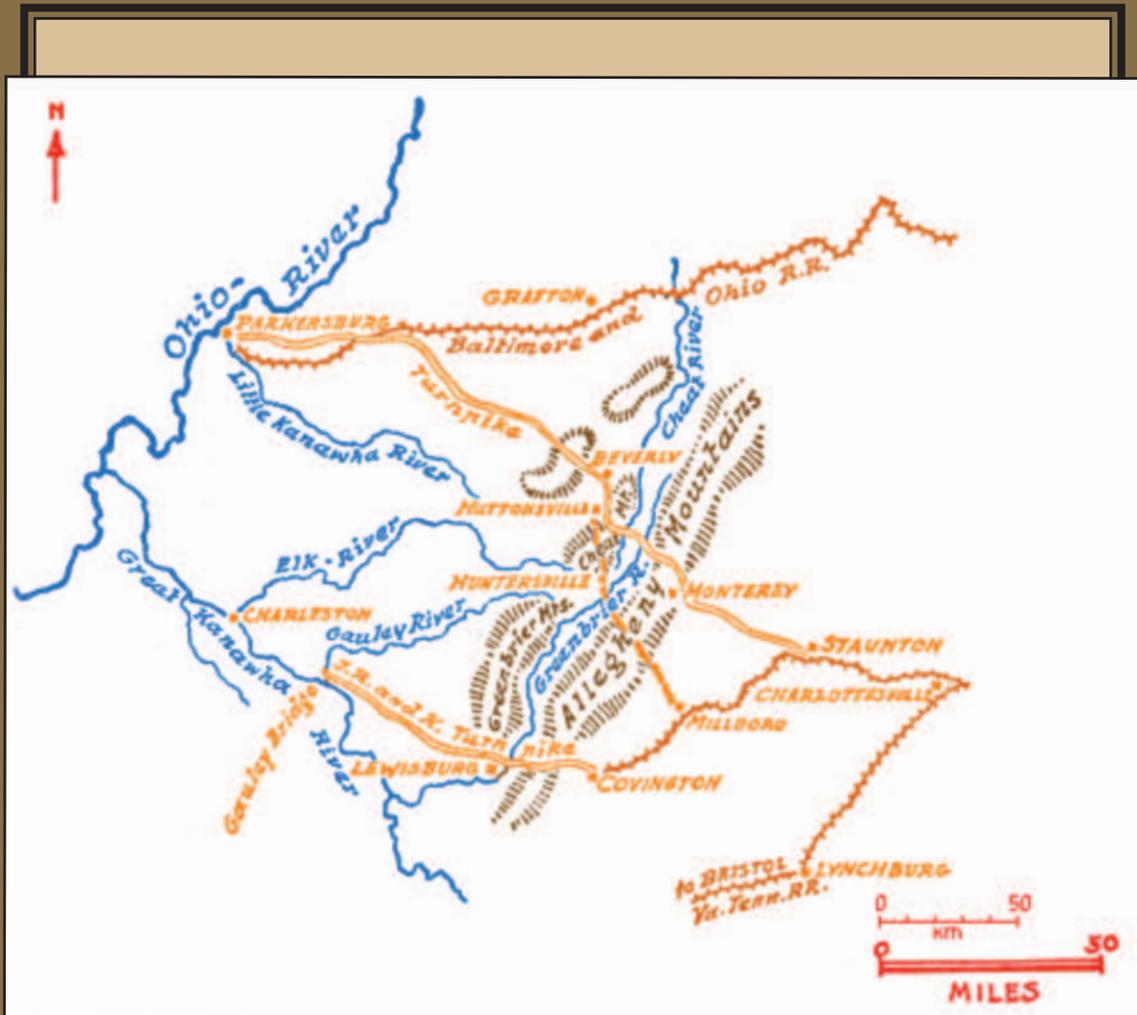




*Virginia's exposed northern frontier,
above.*

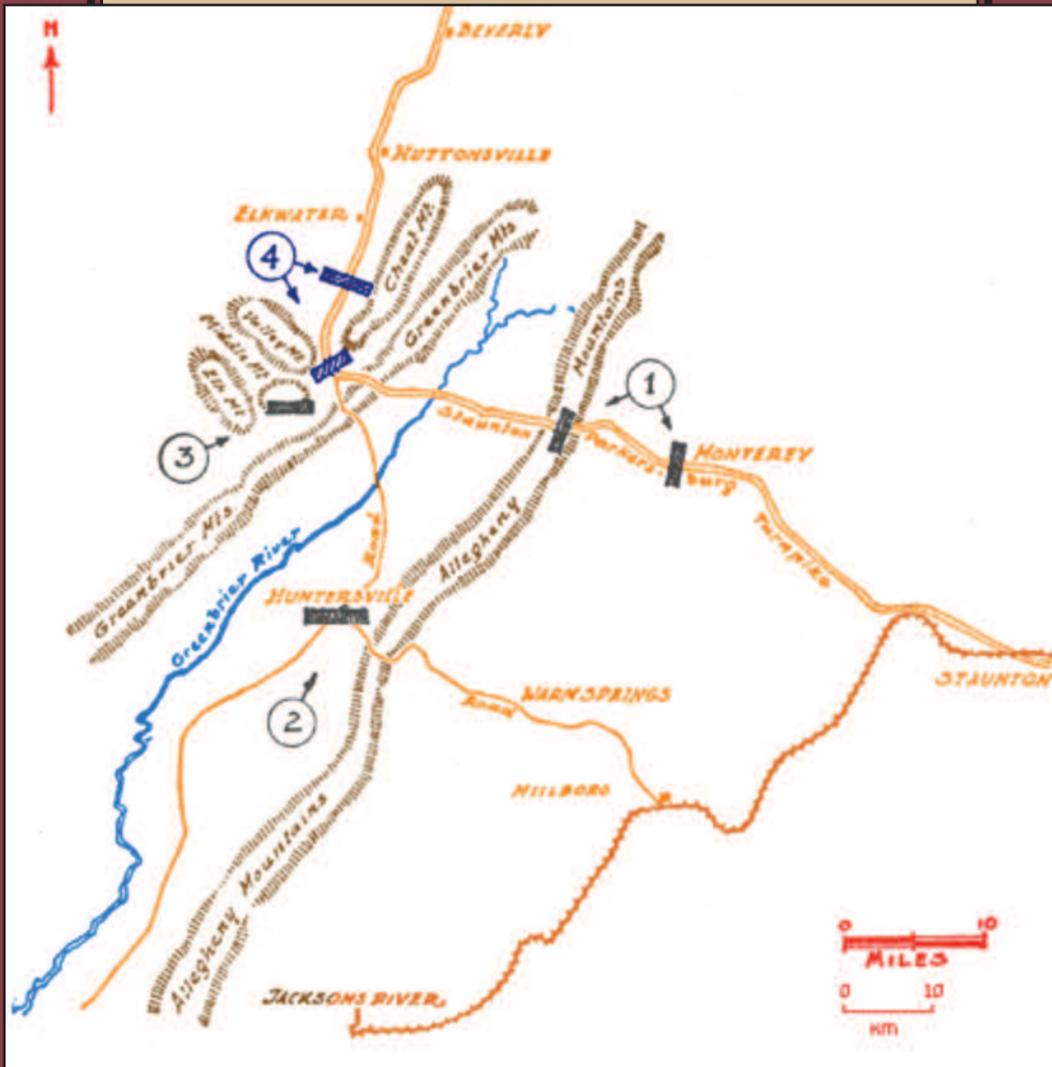
*Sketch illustrating how Norfolk
could be masked, right.*





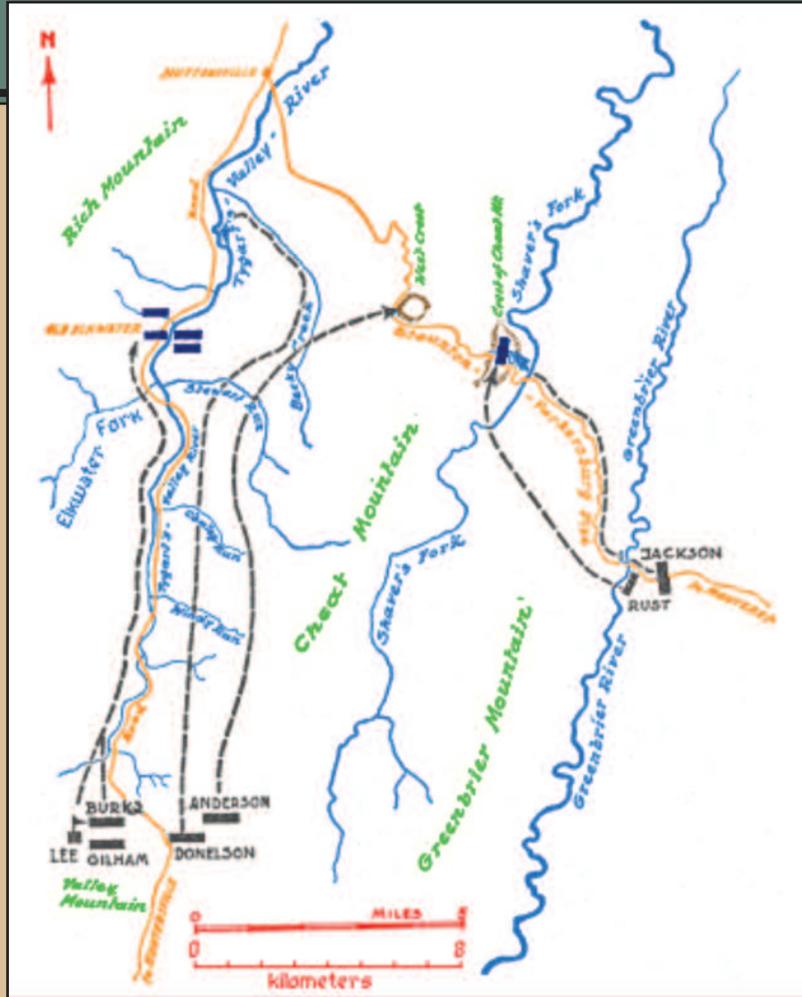
The roads toward the Ohio River from Staunton.





Situation on the Allegheny front, about August 1, 1861.

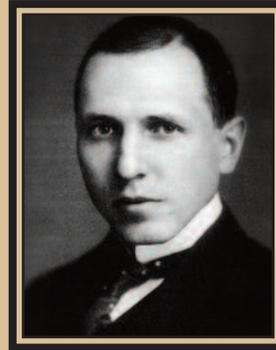




The plan of attack on Cheat Mountain and down Tygart's Valley.



Douglas Southall Freeman (1886 - 1953), was born in Lynchburg, Virginia. He earned a PhD in history at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1908 at the age of 22. Freeman joined the staff of the **Richmond Times-Dispatch** in 1909 and, in 1915, at the age of 29, he became editor of **The Richmond News Leader**—a position he held for 34 years.



Freeman’s newspaper editorials and daily radio broadcasts made him one of the most influential Virginians of his day. His analysis of the military campaigns of World War I and World War II brought him recognition throughout the country, especially in military circles. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt thanked him for suggesting the use of the term “liberation”, rather than “invasion”, of Europe. Military commanders such as Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Generals George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, and Dwight D. Eisenhower sought his friendship and advice. Douglas Southall Freeman died of a heart attack on June 13, 1953 at his home in Richmond, Virginia, at the age of 67. He was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Freeman’s fame rests on four works of history: **Lee’s Dispatches** in 1915, **R.E. Lee** in 1934, **Lee’s Lieutenants** in 1942, and **George Washington** in 1954. The biographies of Lee and Washington earned him the prestigious Pulitzer Prize. These biographies have since gone on to become iconic works whose power and scope will probably

*The insert above displays a photograph of Douglas Southall Freeman c. 1916 as the new editor of the **Richmond News Leader**.*

never be equaled. In narrating Lee's civil war years, he used what came to be known as the "fog of war" technique, providing readers only the limited information that Lee himself had at a given moment. This helped convey the confusion of war that Lee experienced as well as the processes by which Lee grappled with problems and made decisions. Of **R.E. Lee**, historian Dumas Malone wrote, "Great as my personal expectations were, the realization far surpassed them." There is not one significant statement of fact in **R.E. Lee** that has been successfully challenged by modern historians. Moreover, matters on which Freeman speculated have been confirmed by subsequently discovered documents. After more than eighty years, **R.E. Lee** remains the authoritative study on the Confederate general.

.

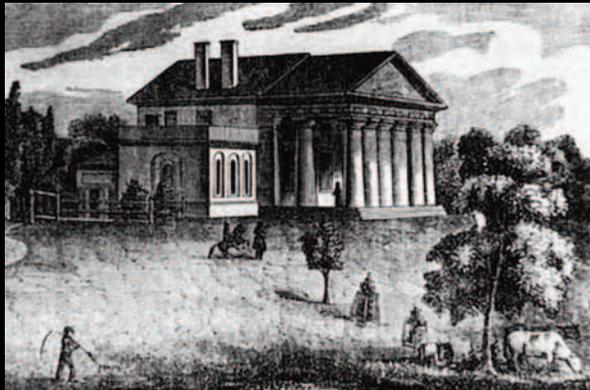


D.S. Freeman on the cover of Time Magazine, October 18, 1948.



Stratford Hall, the ancestral mansion of four generations of the Lee Family, was built in the 1730's. R. E. Lee was born here in 1807 and lived in it with his mother until 1811, when it was seized by creditors for debts incurred by Henry Lee, his father.

Arlington House, the home built by G. W. Parke Custis. Completed in 1818, the property was inherited by his daughter, Mary, in 1857. It afterward became known as the Lee-Custis Mansion.



AUDIO CONNOISSEUR®

THE FINEST IN RECORDED LITERATURE