

THE CIVIL WAR- A 150 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

LECTURE SUMMARY



The lecture highlights America's most devastating war which raged from April 12, 1861 with the assault on Fort Sumter to April 9, 1865 with Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Spawned by the fight over slavery which dominated life in the southern states, northern abolitionists were dedicated to eradicating this horrendous practice. Just weeks after Abraham Lincoln was elected President, states began to secede and formed the Confederacy. After four years of stunning bloodshed, families being torn apart and immense property damage, the war finally ended... but America would never be the same.

Lecture outline:

- Slavery- a horrific practice which existed around the world
- A way of life for many southerners, an abomination for most northerners
- Lincoln is elected- and the country begins to fracture
- The first shots are fired- the start of a shockingly tragic war
- Lincoln searches for a General who can win... but appoints several who lose
- Some good news for the Union- victories
- The "High Water Mark" of the Confederacy- the loss at Gettysburg
- Lincoln goes to the theatre and our nation loses a hero
- The aftermath: Reconstruction and the painful rebuilding of America

Gene Pisasale- BIO

Gene is an author and lecturer who's written five books and contributes a regular column titled "*Living History*" to *The Daily Local News* and other media outlets. He's presented his lectures at The Union League in Philadelphia, the Hotel du Pont, the University and Whist Club and Du Pont Country Club in Wilmington, for the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, dozens of historical societies, Rotary Clubs, the AARP and many other venues. He grew up in Wynnewood on the Main Line outside Philadelphia. After graduation from Bucknell University, he earned a Master's Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin and later an MBA Finance at San Diego State University. Gene is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). He worked first as a petroleum geologist for Exxon and later as an energy analyst and portfolio manager for 24 years. He retired from the investment industry in 2010 to pursue his writing career and lecture series. Gene is a member of the Chadds Ford Historical Society, the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, the American Historical Association, the American Friends of Lafayette, Friends of Brandywine Battlefield and is an approved speaker for the *Delaware Humanities Forum*. A lifelong history buff, he has traveled to many [historic sites](#), including Gettysburg, Antietam and the 'liberty trails' of Boston and Philadelphia. He and his wife Phyllis live in Kennett Square, Pa. with their three cats Frankie, Francis and Momcat and their two parakeets Sally and Linus.

Gene's new book "*The Forgotten Star*" is an historical mystery novel which delves into the War of 1812 and true life mysteries surrounding an American icon- the Star-Spangled Banner. His website is www.GenePisasale.com He welcomes inquiries for lectures, book signings and related events.

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