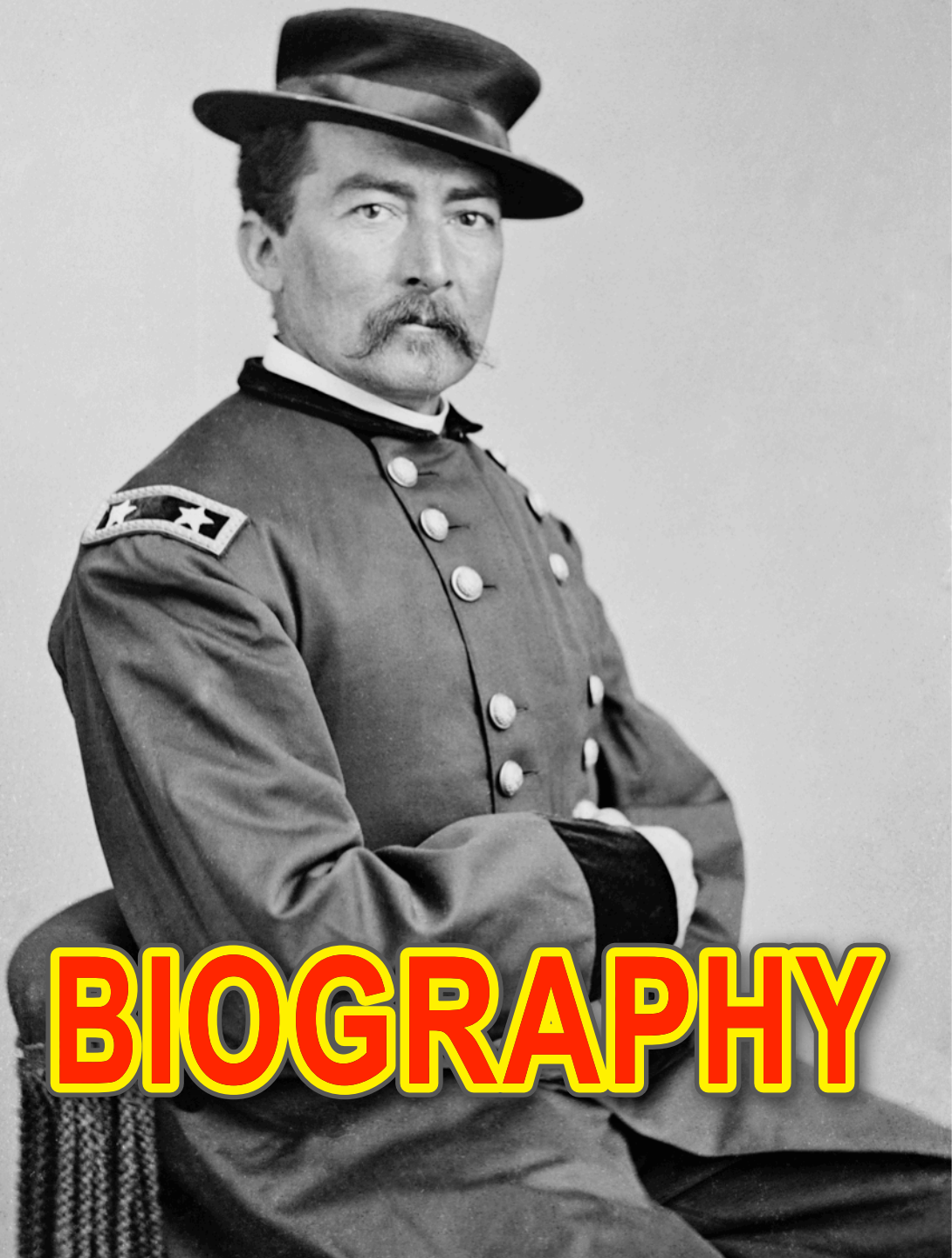


PHILIP SHERIDAN



BIOGRAPHY

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Philip Sheridan was born on March 6, 1831, and grew up in Ohio. Sheridan graduated from West Point military academy in 1853, and was then posted on frontier land in Texas, California and the Pacific Northwest, during which time he fought in battles and negotiated with Native Americans.

As the Civil War began in 1861, Sheridan became a captain on the Union side. At first he had relatively small roles in Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee, but then Union general Ulysses S. Grant appointed him cavalry commander in the Army of the Potomac. He had soon wounded Confederate general J. E. B. Stuart in an attack in Virginia.

In 1864, Union troops focused on cutting off Confederate food supplies in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Sheridan and his men swept through the area, destroying farmland, livestock, and food stocks. In response, the Confederates attacked Sheridan's camp at Cedar Creek while he was away, causing his men to flee. But when Sheridan found his retreating men, he inspired them to turn around and fight back. In the end, Sheridan's men won out. His victory is commemorated in the poem 'Sheridan's Ride' by Thomas Buchanan Read.

In early 1865, Sheridan embarked on another important campaign for Ulysses S. Grant. This time, the plan was to take control of the Five Forks railroad so that supplies could not be brought in to the Confederate forces in the area, led by their general, Robert E. Lee. Sheridan led the first attack at the Battle of Five Forks, and then more Union troops came in to finally surround Lee's army and force his surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia, on April 9, 1865.

After the Civil War, Sheridan was involved in fighting against the Native Americans on the Great Plains. Sheridan was also important in protecting the area that became Yellowstone National Park, where Mount Sheridan is named for him. In 1888, he was appointed General of the Army of the United States. He died the same year from heart failure, just months after completing his memoirs for publication.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'surrender'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'surrender' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'surrender'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'surrender'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'surrender' means.

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: posted	stationed

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Despite his men suffering a surprise attack at Cedar Creek, Sheridan rallied his troops to secure victory.

Sheridan and his men cut off the Confederate food supply in the valley.

When the Civil War broke out, Sheridan became a captain on the Union side.

Sheridan first saw minor action on frontier lands.

In 1865, Sheridan was crucial to victory at Five Forks, which resulted in Confederate surrender.

Philip Sheridan was born in 1831, and became a soldier.

In 1864, Sheridan was crucial in the Shenandoah Valley campaign.

Get to the facts

1 When did the Civil War begin?

2 What did Sheridan destroy in Virginia?

3 Which poem commemorates Sheridan's victory?

4 When did Robert E. Lee surrender?

5 Which national park did Sheridan protect?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Cedar Creek

Imagine you are Philip Sheridan in 1864. You hear that your men have been attacked at their camp near Cedar Creek, twenty miles away...

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'surrender'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'surrender' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'surrender'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'surrender'.
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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – posted Synonym – stationed

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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Sheridan and his men cut off the Confederate food supply in the valley.

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Make a story...

Cedar Creek

Imagine you are Philip Sheridan in 1864. You hear that your men have been attacked at their camp near Cedar Creek, twenty miles away... (now complete the story)

Philip Sheridan

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