



# WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN



*As Portrayed by Jim Opdenaker*

William Tecumseh Sherman was born in 1820 in Lancaster, OH. Sherman's unusual given name has always attracted considerable attention. Sherman himself reported that his middle name grew from the fact that his father "caught a fancy" for the great chief of the Shawnees, Tecumseh.

Sherman's father Charles Robert Sherman, a successful lawyer who sat on the Ohio Supreme Court, died unexpectedly in 1829. He left his widow with eleven children and no inheritance.

After his father's death, the nine-year-old Sherman was raised by a Lancaster neighbor and family friend, attorney Thomas Ewing, a prominent member of the Whig Party who served as senator from Ohio and as the first Secretary of the Interior.

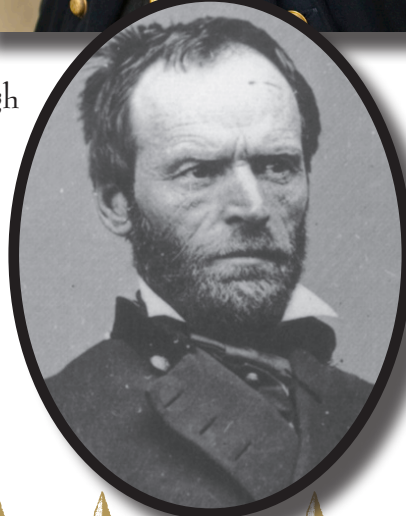
Sherman was distantly related to American founding father Roger Sherman and grew to admire him. Charles Taylor Sherman, William Tecumseh's older brother became a federal judge. One of his younger brothers, John Sherman, served as a U.S. senator and Cabinet secretary. Another younger brother, Hoyt Sherman, was a successful banker. Two of his foster brothers served as major generals in the Union Army during the Civil War: Hugh Boyle Ewing, later an ambassador and author, and Thomas Ewing, Jr., who would serve as defense attorney in the military trials against the Lincoln conspirators.

Sherman was a West Point graduate of the class of 1840, a soldier, businessman, educator and author. He served as a General in the Union Army during the American Civil War

(1861–65), for which he received recognition for his outstanding command of military strategy as well as criticism for the harshness of the "scorched earth" policies that he implemented in conducting total war against the Confederate States. Military historian B. H. Liddell Hart famously declared that Sherman was "the first modern general."

General Sherman served under General Ulysses S. Grant in 1862 and 1863 during the campaigns that led to the fall of the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg on the Mississippi River and culminated with the routing of the Confederate armies in the state of Tennessee. In 1864, Sherman succeeded Grant as the Union commander in the western theater of the war. He proceeded to lead his troops to the capture of the city of Atlanta, a military success that contributed to the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln. Sherman's subsequent march through Georgia and the Carolinas further undermined the Confederacy's ability to continue fighting. He accepted the surrender of all the Confederate armies in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida in April 1865.

When Grant assumed the U.S. presidency in 1869, Sherman succeeded him as Commanding General of the Army (1869–83). As such, he was responsible for the U.S. Army conduct in the Indian Wars over the next 15 years, in the western United States. He steadfastly refused to be drawn into politics and in 1875 published his Memoirs, one of the best-known firsthand accounts of the Civil War.



*General Sherman is portrayed by Jim Opdenaker who resides in Quarryville, PA. Jim is a professional Artist specializing in Civil War Art and portraits. Samples of his art can be viewed at [www.battlefieldprints.com](http://www.battlefieldprints.com).*