

Introduction to the Series

<http://civilwar150.longwood.edu>

Hello and welcome to “That a Nation Might Live”. This podcast series, sponsored by Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia, will focus on events leading up to and during the United States Civil War. After setting the stage through a series of preliminary episodes, we will generally be looking back each week to significant events that occurred roughly 150 years ago on those same dates. We hope that the series will not only be a welcome addition to the many sesquicentennial events across the nation, but will also act as an archived source of information for scholars and all those interested in these important events. My name is Chuck Ross and I am the Dean of the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences at Longwood. I will be joined in narrating the series by Dr. David Coles, the chairman of our Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy. The episodes will largely be researched, written and produced by Longwood students.

The US Civil War was the product of a complex confluence of events and people. During the preliminary episodes of this series, we will be examining some of the major factors that led to the war. These will include topics such as slavery, states’ rights, westward expansion, John Brown’s raid, economic issues, the conventions and election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln as president-elect and the beginning of the secession movement in South Carolina.

By exploring and connecting the items on this wide-ranging list, we hope to set the stage for the outbreak of warfare that came in the spring of 1861. When one is able to weave together and place these various subplots into context, the hostilities that erupted come to seem almost inevitable. When we cross past the sesquicentennial anniversary of the attack on Fort Sumter, the series will follow a pace that mirrors the rhythm of the war itself: fast and furious during the warm months and generally slower and more reflective as the weather cools.

Thanks again for tuning into the series. Look for a new episode to be unveiled each week at this time. By subscribing, you will be able to easily listen in whenever it fits into your schedule.