

STARS  
IN THEIR  
COURSES

THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN  
JUNE-JULY 1863

SHELBY FOOTE

for Brian Lamb  
with thanks for a  
pleasant hour

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Shelby Foote

276. Shelby Foote  
Stars in Their Courses

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COURSES

BOOKNOTES  
BRIAN P. LAMB  
C-SPAN AIR DATE

9 / 11 / 94

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BOOKNOTES  
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so thoroughly combined as here; one finishes this volume convinced that no one need undertake this particular enterprise again."

In between researching and writing *The Civil War*, Foote took time out to serve as novelist-lecturer at the University of Virginia and playwright-in-residence at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. After completing the twenty-year project, he returned to fiction with *September September* (1977), a tense and haunting novel of the South set on the eve of integration in Little Rock and Memphis. More recently, he served as consultant and presiding spirit on the celebrated nine-part PBS television series *The Civil War* that aired in 1990. At the time he remarked: "Any understanding of this nation has to be based, and I mean really based, on an understanding of the Civil War. I believe that firmly. It defined us. The Revolution did what it did. Our involvement in European wars, beginning with the First World War, did what it did. But the Civil War defined us as what we are and it opened us to being what we became, good and bad things. And it is very necessary, if you're going to understand the American character in the twentieth century, to learn about this enormous catastrophe of the mid-nineteenth century. It was the crossroads of our being, and it was a hell of a crossroads."

Civil War  
defined us



Tacitus

Ralph Neuman

Bibliography

20 years

Civil War history on the West battles  
Was interested in focusing on the West battles  
as well as east



Why did we fight the Civil War?

What did the death of Stonewall Jackson do?

Lincoln's letters to commanders in the field

How important were the generals.

Trains & couriers

Lee - his unwarmed anxiety

Why did everyone so respect R.E. Lee