



# Historic Insights



by Gene Pisasale

## The Civil War – A 150 Year Retrospective



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, 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 Battle of Gettysburg
- Lincoln goes to the theatre and our nation loses a hero
- The aftermath: Reconstruction and the painful rebuilding of America

### About the Author:



Gene Pisasale is an author and historian who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. He's written nine books, conducts an ongoing lecture series and contributes a column titled “**Living History**” to media outlets in the Philadelphia area. He earned a Master's Degree summa cum laude in American history at American Public University. Gene began his career as a petroleum geologist after earning a Master's Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin. He later worked as an energy analyst and portfolio manager in the investment industry after earning an MBA Finance from San Diego State University, the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certifications. He is an approved **Speaker** and **Visiting Scholar** at the Delaware Humanities Forum. Gene has presented his lectures at a wide range of venues, including the **Hamilton Grange National Memorial** (Alexander Hamilton's home in New York), **Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park**, **Fort McHenry** in Baltimore, **Brandywine Battlefield Park** and the **Union League** in Philadelphia. If your group has guest speakers, he welcomes inquiries for lecture presentations, book signings and other events.

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