

# Civil War Casualty Comparison: Grant vs Lee

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## Introduction

This worksheet explores the number of casualties by battle and general in charge. The casualty data is obtained from Jeffrey Arnold's Github site that has an amazing amount of information on the US Civil War.

I decided to use his file that contains Wikipedia data on Civil War casualties by battle. The Wikipedia often gives ranges for casualties. When it does, I averaged the min and max values of the range.

Arnold's file does not contain information on the generals running the battle. I obtained this data by scraping it from the Wikipedia's Civil War battle pages. This scraping is included in this document. The scraping is time-consuming and slows the execution of the file.

## Background

### Ulysses S. Grant

I find Ulysses Grant is one of the most interesting people in US history. He is a man who struggled to succeed in the pre-war civilian society, but uniquely excelled as a general in the Union Army. He was a man who shunned pomp and circumstance. His wartime photos invariably show him wearing a simple uniform in an informal setting. He wrote a post-war memoir that is considered the finest US presidential memoir ever written.

His reputation came under heavy assault by post-war writers who accused him of being a butcher. In fact, his memoir mentioned his regrets at aspects of the Battle of Cold Harbor and the heavy casualties that assault endured. Others argue that if his strategy had been adopted earlier by other Union generals the war could have been considerably shortened. In fact, Grant is considered a master strategist.

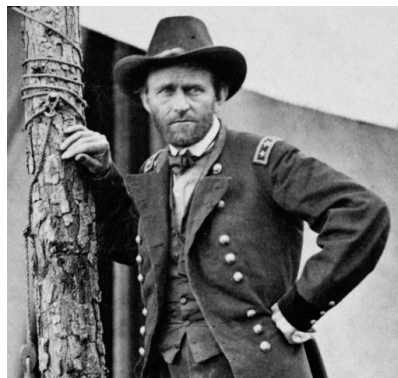


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## Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee is one of the most famous of all US Generals. He was a master tactician, though has been criticized for his lack of a strategy to actually win the war and issues with logistics. He was considered a patrician gentleman and spent his few remaining years after the war as the head of Washington University, a school that was nearly bankrupt and he saved. By all accounts, he was an excellent academic administrator.

Lee was venerated as a military genius after the war and has developed an almost cult-like following.

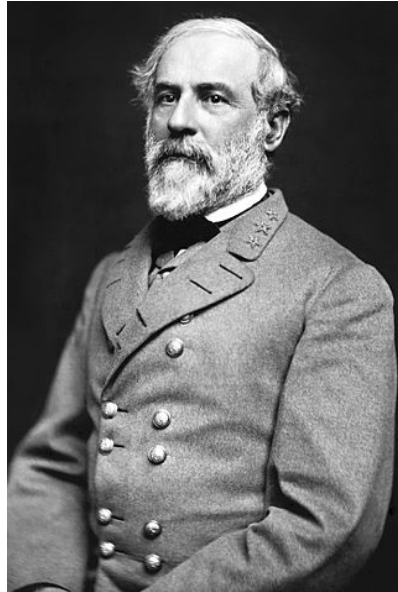


Figure 2: alt text here

## Bonekemper Analysis

I pulled in the Bonekemper data for my reference data. The tables are big, so I will just present the final summary. Bonekemper argues that more men died under Lee as a general than under Grant. There are issues with making that claim because:

- Lee was in fighting fighting major battles longer and can be expected to have higher casualties.
- Grant started fighting in the western theater, where battle casualties tended to be lower. Why were the casualties lower? I don't know.

A summary of Bonekemper's data is shown below.

General	Confederate	Union
Grant	190760	150142
Lee	208922	240322

## Casualty Data Gathering

This section reads in the data from the Github site and sums the numeric data to get the total casualties.

## Analysis

## Format Casualty Data

This section generates the data table with only the information required for this analysis.

## Scrape General Data from the Wikipedia

I gather all the Union and Confederate generals listed for the battles in the Arnold casualty file.

## Battles for Lee and Grant

### Lee Casualties

The following table contains the Civil War battles that Lee is listed on the Wikipedia as a general. Lee took over command of the Army of Northern Virginia after Johnston was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines and kept that command for the rest of war.

Battle	Confederate	US
Battle of Antietam	20632	24802
Battle of Appomattox Court House	28305	164
Battle of Beaver Dam Creek	1484	361
Battle of Chaffin's Farm	2000	3357
Battle of Chancellorsville	12764	17197
Battle of Cheat Mountain	90	88
Battle of Cold Harbor	5287	12737
Battle of Cumberland Church	255	655
Battle of Darbytown and New Market	700	458
Battle of Fort Pulaski	385	1
Battle of Fredericksburg	4151	12653
Battle of Gaines's Mill	7993	6837
Battle of Gettysburg	23231	23055
Battle of Glendale	3673	3797
Battle of Malvern Hill	5650	2100
Battle of Mine Run	680	1272
Battle of North Anna	1552	2623
Battle of Oak Grove	441	626
Battle of Salem Church	4935	4611
Battle of South Mountain	2685	2325
Battle of Totopotomoy Creek	1593	731
Battle of White Oak Road	800	1870
Battle of Williamsport	0	0
Battle of the Crater	1491	3798
Battle of the Wilderness	11033	17666
Second Battle of Bull Run	8300	10000
Second Battle of Deep Bottom	1500	2899
Second Battle of Petersburg	4000	11386
Second Battle of Rappahannock Station	1670	419
Third Battle of Petersburg	4250	3500
Total	161530	171988

### Grant Casualties

The following table contains the Civil War battles that Grant is listed on the Wikipedia as a general. In some of these battles, Grant was not the top general, but I listed those battles anyway.

Battle	Confederate	US
Battle of Appomattox Court House	28305	164
Battle of Belmont	641	607
Battle of Champion Hill	3840	2441
Battle of Cold Harbor	5287	12737
Battle of Fort Donelson	13846	2691
Battle of Fort Henry	79	40
Battle of Jackson, Mississippi	850	286
Battle of North Anna	1552	2623
Battle of Port Gibson	787	861
Battle of Shiloh	10699	13047
Battle of Spotsylvania Court House	12687	18399
Battle of Totopotomoy Creek	1593	731
Battle of the Wilderness	11033	17666
Chattanooga Campaign	7000	11648
Second Battle of Corinth	8466	5040
Second Battle of Petersburg	4000	11386
Siege of Corinth	1000	1000
Siege of Vicksburg	65394	9670
Third Battle of Petersburg	4250	3500
Total	181309	114537

## Casualty Summary

The following table summarizes my scraping results.

General	Confederate	US
Grant	181309	114537
Lee	161530	171988