

Charlie Daniels, Prologue

On the twelfth of April, 1861

Confederate guns opened fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor

Thus beginning the bloodiest conflict in American History

620,000 dead, more than all other American wars combined

The Civil War remains this nation's single most defining experience

Ultimately giving new meaning to the word freedom

Walt Whitman, a young newspaperman

Destined to become America's greatest poet wrote

"Future years will never know the seething hell

And the black infernal background of this war

And it is best they should not

The real war will never get in the books"