

## Student Handout 2-Characters of Wedding

**Pastor:** This is the minister selected to marry David Early and Sarah Hoke. There are three options for this part. Since the class is taking the perspective of the minister in their writing, they could read this part together. Or, if preferred, a representative from the class could be chosen to play this part. Or, the teacher may wish to play the part of the Pastor.

**Stephen Benjamin Schneck [Speaker 1]:** He is the great grandson of Benjamin Schneck. He will examine a claim of loss given to his great grandfather and answer worksheet questions about it. At the wedding he will be the first speaker objecting to the marriage because his great grandfather's losses were never recovered. He should be ready to show the claim of his great grandfather to the pastor and other wedding guests [pass around to class].

**Marie Wilson [Speaker 2]:** Marie Wilson is a relative of Fannie M. Lyle Wilson, a sixteen year-old girl who lived with her aunt and uncle in Lexington, Virginia when General Hunter's army raided the town in June of 1864. You will read and answer questions regarding a letter Fannie wrote to her father about the Union raid on Lexington, Virginia. (The raid included the burning of Virginia Military Institute and Ex-Governor Letcher's residence. These burnings were given as reasons why Early ordered the retaliatory burning of Chambersburg.) At the wedding, Marie Wilson describes her relative's harrowing experience, but ultimately recommends the continuation of the wedding.

**Richard Shryock [Speaker 3]:** Richard Shryock is the grandson of J. K. Shryock, a Chambersburg resident during the burning in the summer of 1864. You will examine a photograph taken by J.K. Shryock after the burning of the town, as well as comments made by Richard Shryock [the actual grandson] about the photograph. You will answer questions about these primary sources as homework. At the wedding, you present the photograph to the pastor and other wedding guests and speak about losses on both sides of the war. You will wish the wedding to go on.

**Helen Keller [Speaker 4]:** Helen Keller is a cousin (three times removed) of Benjamin Schneck. You will read a letter written by Benjamin Schneck to Margaretta Keller a few days after the burning and complete the corresponding worksheet. The fourth guest to speak up at the wedding, you will show that perspectives can not be clearly drawn between Northern and Southern sides. You seem to change your mind while talking. You start out defending your relative, Stephen Schneck, but then admit you saw some acts of kindness from Confederate soldiers as well. You end by asking people to use something other than eyesight to see the situation.

**Sidney Marlin, III [Speaker 5]:** Sidney is a descendant of Sidney Marlin, a Union soldier under General Hunter's command who burned Virginia Military Institute. You will read and answer questions about a letter Sidney Marlin wrote to his wife in June of 1864 describing Lexington and the Institute. During the wedding Sidney Marlin, III speaks up against the marriage.

**David J. Early [Speaker 6]:** David Early is the groom in the play. He is the great grandson of General J. A. Early, the man who ordered the burning of Chambersburg. You will read a letter J.A. Early wrote to Jacob Hoke twenty years after the burning of Chambersburg describing his reasons for the burning. Then you will answer related questions for homework. In the play, David Early defends his father and his desire to marry Sarah Hoke.

**Sarah Hoke [Speaker 7]:** Sarah Hoke is the great grand-daughter of Jacob Hoke and the bride-to-be or not-to-be in the wedding. You will read an excerpt from Jacob Hoke's book, *Summer of 1864: The Great Invasion* and complete related worksheet questions. In the play Sarah ends with the conclusion of her great grandfather about the burning. This is the very quote that was written on the board the first day of the lesson.

\*Note: While the primary resources used in dialogue are real, the present-day character's names are fictitious (with the exception of Richard Shryock). Opinions of the wedding are fictitious as well.