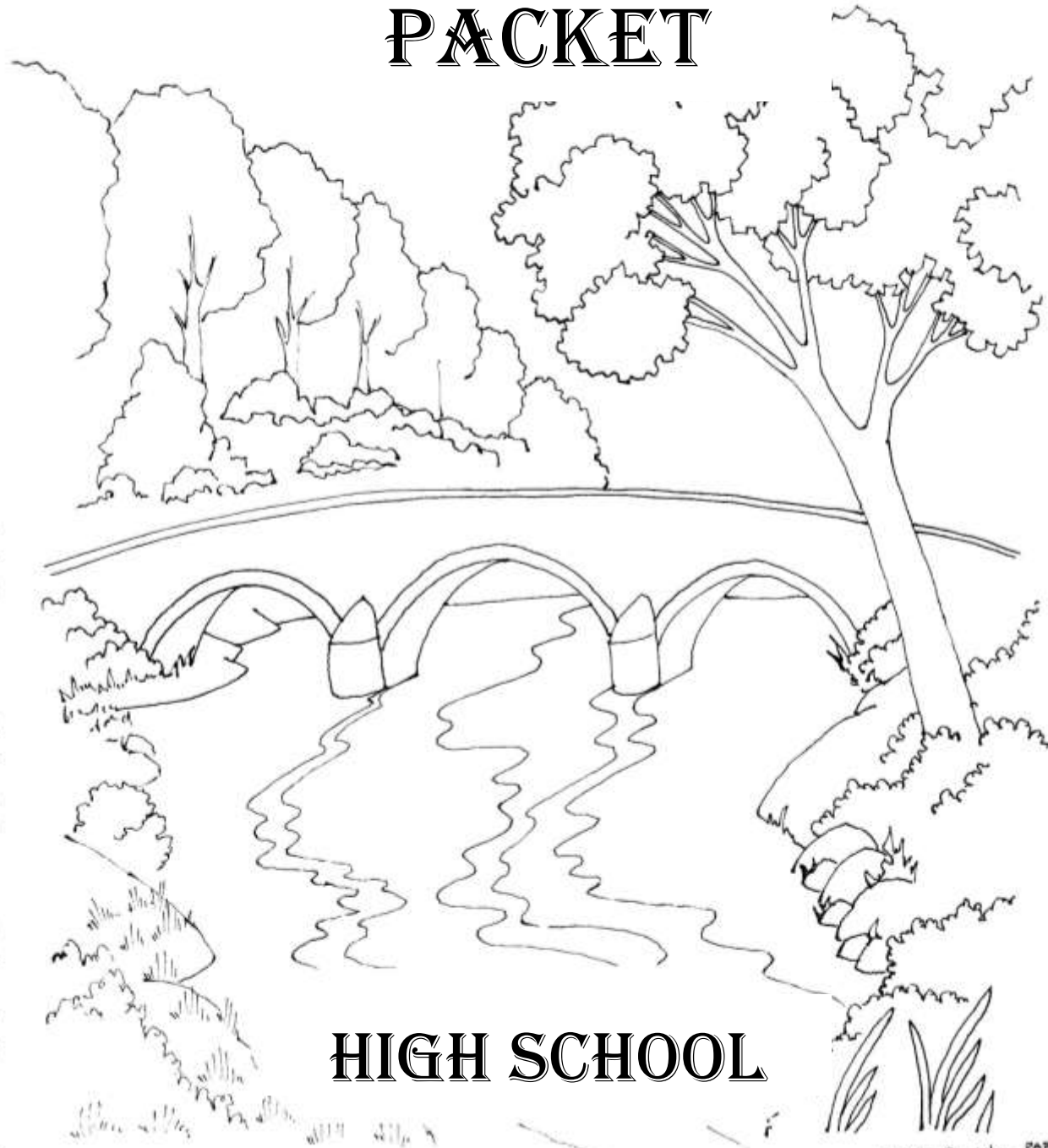


# Antietam National Battlefield

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## TEACHERS PACKET



## HIGH SCHOOL

Mannie Gentile PARK RANGER



**Antietam National Battlefield  
Mumma Farm Education Center  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 158  
Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
301-432-4567**

Dear Educator:

Thank you for your interest in the Antietam National Battlefield. We are pleased to provide you with this teacher packet, designed for students in grades 9-12. This will:

1. Provide information on visiting the battlefield,
2. Provide information about the Battle of Antietam, and
3. Provide several lessons/activities meant to supplement your study of the battle.

For additional information or to schedule a curriculum-based education program with a park ranger, please call (301) 432-4567.

We hope you will find this packet useful.

Sincerely,

The Park Rangers at  
Antietam National Battlefield

*Mumma Farm Education Center*

## PLANNING YOUR VISIT

**PARK ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:** Antietam National Battlefield  
P.O. Box 158, Sharpsburg, MD 21782  
Visitor Center (301) 432-5124  
Education Center (301) 432-4567  
Fax (301) 432-4942  
<http://www.nps.gov/anti>

### **VISITOR CENTER (5831 Dunker Church Road, Sharpsburg, MD 21782):**

-The Visitor Center is open year round, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

-Hours of Operation: September-May 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m./June-August 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

-The Visitor Center houses the museum, a 134-seat theater, and the Museum Store.

-AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMS: A 25-minute overview film shows in the park theater on the hour and half hour, with the exception of between noon and 1:00 p.m. when the one-hour "Antietam Documentary" is shown.

### **TOURING THE BATTLEFIELD:**

The Battlefield is best experienced by self guided driving tour. Visitors are guided along the eight and one half mile tour road by the park brochure. Parking is available at each of the eleven tour stops. Teachers should request the "People and Places of Antietam" packet, which provides additional information for students about the battle on 17 September 1862. Additional support materials and services can be purchased through the museum store. These include an audio tape or CD which will provide narration and additional information for the driving tour, DVDs of the audio visual programs, and the services of a private Battlefield Guide.

### **SCHOOL GROUPS VISITING THE BATTLEFIELD:**

If you intend to bring your class to the battlefield for a ranger-led program, please call to make a **RESERVATION**. A list of ranger led curriculum-based education programs can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/anti/forteachers/index.htm>. Please make your program reservations with the education coordinators as early as possible by calling 301-432-4567.

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# Antietam National Battlefield

## Educator's Packet: Grades 9-12

### PACKET OVERVIEW

#### Description:

This educator's packet is divided into two sections: *Overview Materials* and *Teaching Materials*. The Overview Materials provide information on the Battle of Antietam, the army's principal commanders, key personalities, and the Emancipation Proclamation. The Teaching Materials contain both on-site and off-site activities meant to supplement your students' study of the Civil War in general, and the consequential Maryland Campaign of September 1862 and the Battle of Antietam in particular. Feel free to select the activities that best suit your students' needs. The activities can be completed by students individually or in groups.

#### Objectives:

The following information and activities are designed to further students' knowledge of the Battle of Antietam. After reviewing the materials and completing the exercises, students should be able to:

- (1) Identify the reasons behind the Confederate army's invasion of Maryland in September 1862;
- (2) Identify and recognize the opposing army commanders at Antietam;
- (3) Name at least three historic sites located on the Antietam battlefield and explain what occurred there;
- (4) Explain the significance of Antietam by identifying the battle's short and long-term consequences, particularly the Emancipation Proclamation;

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Subject Areas:** Social Studies, Language Arts, Science, Math

**Ties to Curriculum:** History/Social Sciences: National Center for History in the Schools, Standards in History for Grades 5-12; Standards 2, 2A, 2B.

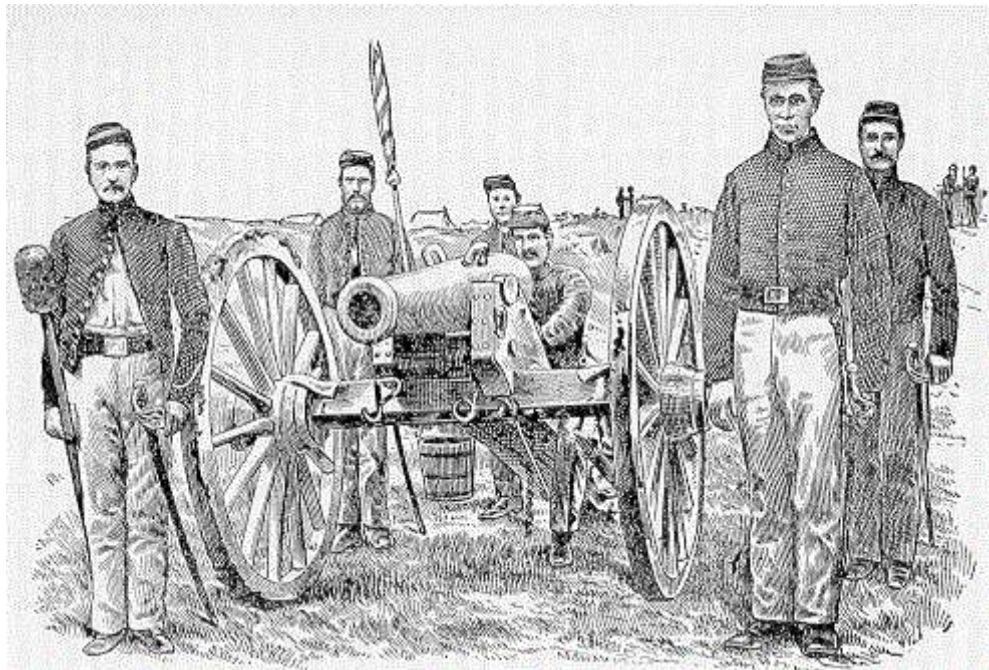
**Setting:** On-Site and Off-Site/In Classroom Activities

**Key Terms:** Antietam, Sharpsburg, Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, George B. McClellan, Dunker Church, Bloody Lane (Sunken Road), Burnside Bridge, The Cornfield, Special Orders No. 191, and Clara Barton

- (5) Explain why it is important that the Antietam National Battlefield be preserved and identify some of the ways they can help preserve the park.

## Comments and Suggestions:

To help us better serve educators, the Antietam National Battlefield Education Coordinators would appreciate comments and/or suggestions about this packet, the Overview Materials, and the Activities. What did you find most helpful? Can anything be added or removed to make for a better and more complete packet? Please mail any feedback to Antietam National Battlefield/Attn: Education Coordinators/P.O. Box 158/Sharpsburg, MD 21782.





# Antietam National Battlefield

## OVERVIEW MATERIALS

### For Teachers



*The Attack on Burnside's Bridge*, Edwin Forbes, 1862.  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



## Antietam: The Bloodiest Day

The Battle of Antietam (or Sharpsburg), fought on September 17, 1862, was the culmination of the first Confederate invasion of the North. About 40,000 Confederates, under the command of General Robert E. Lee, confronted the 87,000-man Federal Army of the Potomac under Gen. George B. McClellan. When the fighting ended, the course of the American Civil War had been forever changed.

After his significant victory at Second Manassas in late August 1862, Lee marched his Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River and into Maryland, hoping to find vitally needed men and supplies. McClellan followed, first to Frederick (where, through rare good fortune, a copy of the Confederate battle plan, Lee's Special Order 191, fell into his hands) then westward 12 miles to the passes of South Mountain. There, on September 14, at Turner's, Fox's, and Crampton's Gaps, Lee's men tried to block the Federals. Because he had split his army to send troops under Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to capture Harpers Ferry, Lee could only hope to delay the Federals. McClellan forced his way through and by the afternoon of September 15 both armies had established new battle lines west and east of Antietam Creek near the town of Sharpsburg. When Jackson's troops reached Sharpsburg on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Harpers Ferry having surrendered the day before, Lee consolidated his position along the low ridge that runs north and south of the town.

The battle opened at dawn on the 17<sup>th</sup> when Union Gen. Joseph Hooker's artillery began a murderous fire on Jackson's men near the



Miller cornfield north of town. "In the time I am writing," Hooker reported, "every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before." Hooker's troops advanced, driving the Confederates before them, and Jackson reported that his men were "exposed for near an hour to a terrific storm of shell, canister, and musketry."

About 7 a.m., General John Bell Hood's Confederate division reinforced Jackson and succeeded in driving back the Federals. An hour later Union Twelfth Corps troops under Gen. Joseph Mansfield counterattacked and by 9 a.m. had regained some of the lost ground. Then, in an effort to extricate some of Mansfield's men from their isolated position near the Dunker Church, Gen. John Sedgwick's division of Edwin V. Sumner's corps advanced into the West Woods. There Confederate troops

struck Sedgwick's men on their front and exposed left flank, inflicting appalling casualties.

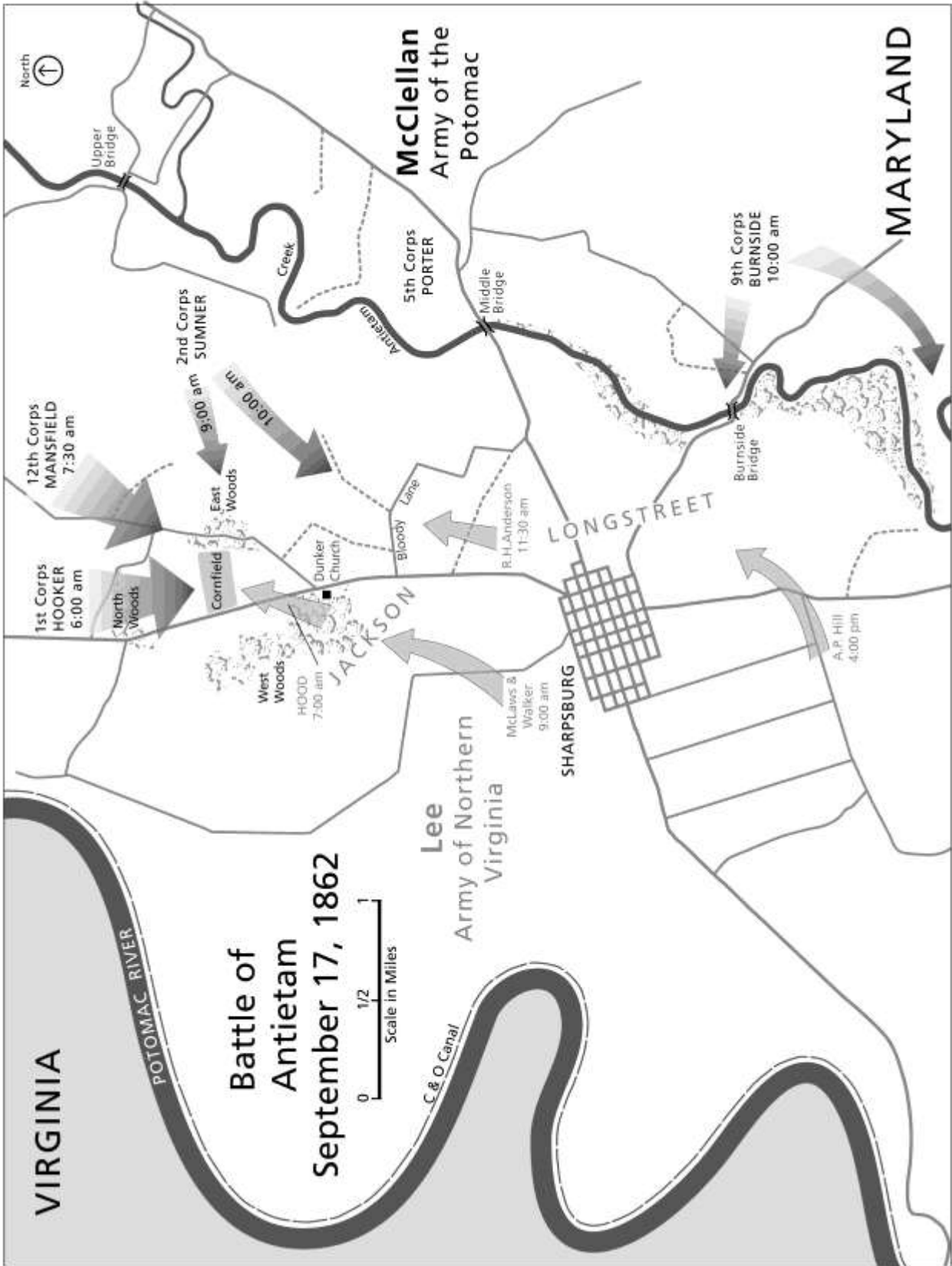
Meanwhile, Gen. William H. French's division of Sumner's corps moved up to support Sedgwick but veered south into Confederates under Gen. D. H. Hill posted along an old sunken road separating the Roulette and Piper farms. For nearly 4 hours, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., bitter fighting raged along this road (afterwards known as Bloody Lane) as French, supported by Gen. Israel B. Richardson's division, also of Sumner's corps, sought to drive the Southerners back. Confusion and sheer exhaustion finally ended the battle here and in the northern part of the field.

Southeast of town, Union Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's troops had been trying to cross a bridge over Antietam Creek since 9:30 a.m. Some 400 Georgians had driven them back each time. At 1 p.m. the Federals finally crossed the bridge (now known as Burnside Bridge) and, after a 2-hour delay to reform their lines, advanced up the slope beyond. By late afternoon they had driven the Georgians back almost to Sharpsburg, threatening to cut off the line of retreat for

Lee's decimated Confederates. Then about 4 p.m. Gen. A. P. Hill's division, left behind by Jackson at Harpers Ferry to salvage the captured Federal property, arrived on the field and immediately entered the fight. Burnside's troops were driven back to the heights near the bridge they had earlier taken. The Battle of Antietam was over. The next day Lee began withdrawing his army across the Potomac River.

More men were killed and wounded at Antietam on September 17, 1862 than on any other single day of the Civil War. Federal losses were 12,410, Confederate losses 10,700. Although neither side gained a decisive victory, Lee's failure to carry the war effort effectively into the North caused Great Britain to refuse recognition of the Confederate government. The battle also gave President Abraham Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which, on January 1, 1863, declared all slaves free in states still in rebellion against the United States. Now the war had a dual purpose: to preserve the Union and end slavery.





## General George Brinton McClellan (1826-1885)

George Brinton McClellan was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 3, 1826. He attended prep schools and the University of Pennsylvania before entering West Point in 1842 at the age of fifteen. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1846, ranked second in a class of fifty-nine graduates. West Point's Class of 1846 was among the prestigious institution's most illustrious. In fact, no less than twenty future Civil War generals graduated that year, including Stonewall Jackson.

Following his graduation, McClellan was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the prestigious Corps of Engineers. He served with great distinction and bravery during the Mexican-American War, earning two brevets for distinguished gallantry in combat. As an engineer, McClellan also helped construct roads and bridges. After the war, McClellan served for a time as an instructor at West Point and even surveyed possible routes for a trans-continental railroad. As one of the army's most promising young officers, McClellan was sent to Europe during the Crimean War to observe tactics. Upon his return, he developed the very popular "McClellan Saddle," which was adopted and used by the U.S. Army until mechanization eliminated horseback cavalry in the twentieth century.

McClellan resigned from the army in 1857 as a captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Cavalry and entered the railroad business. He became Chief Engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad and later the president of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad.



With the outbreak of Civil War in April 1861, George McClellan, who was then residing in Cincinnati, was made Major General of Ohio Volunteers, commanding all the forces of that state. He won a series of small but significant victories in western Virginia in the spring of 1861 and soon proved himself to be a charismatic, efficient, and capable organizer. After the Union disaster at First Bull Run (Manassas), President Lincoln named McClellan commander of the U.S. Army in the East, an army McClellan later designated the Army of the Potomac. While an expert at organization and a man possessed of the critical ability to inspire the troops, McClellan's failures as a battlefield commander at once negated all of the professional success he had enjoyed up to that point. His men held him in high regard,

but to the authorities in Washington, McClellan was viewed as excessively cautious and dangerously ambitious. Lost opportunities came to define his tenure as army commander, and this was especially true at Antietam. He continually overestimated the size of Lee's Confederate army and failed to ensure that his carefully designed plans were properly executed.

After the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln relieved McClellan of his command. With no assignments, McClellan returned to his

home in Trenton, New Jersey, where he immersed himself in politics. As the Democratic Party's candidate for president in 1864, McClellan was soundly defeated by his opponent, Abraham Lincoln. McClellan traveled extensively in Europe after his defeat. He served as governor of New Jersey from 1878-1881, and died on October 29, 1885 at the age of fifty-eight. George McClellan's remains were buried in the Riverview Cemetery, in Trenton.

## General Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870)

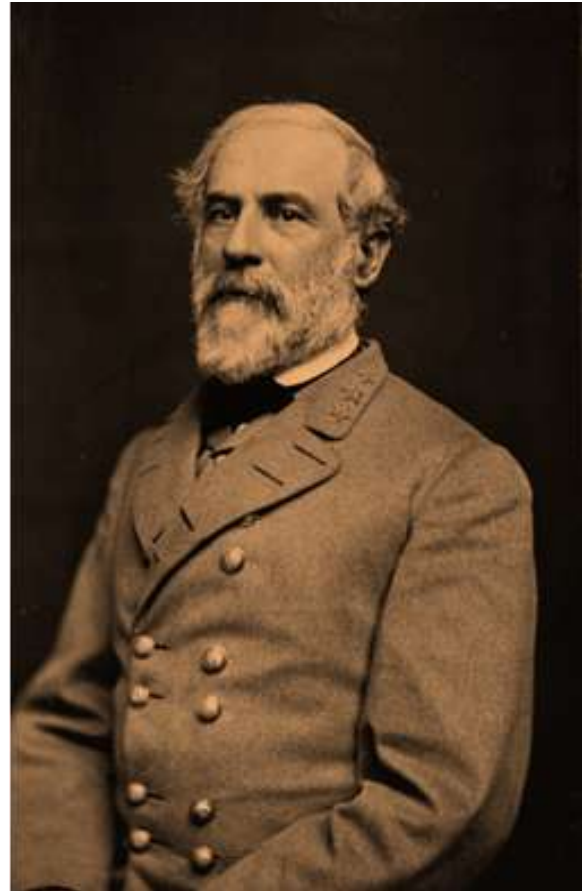
Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807, at "Stratford" in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the fifth child born to Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee and Ann Hill (Carter) Lee. He grew up in an era where George Washington was still a living memory. Robert had many ties to Revolutionary War heroes.

Educated in the Alexandria, Virginia, Lee obtained an appointment to West Point in 1825. In 1829, he graduated second in the class without a single demerit. Upon his graduation, Lee was commissioned a brevet 2nd Lieutenant of Engineers.

On June 30, 1831, he married Mary Ann Randolph Custis. They had seven children. All three of their sons served in the Confederate Army. George Washington Custis and William Henry Fitzhugh ("Rooney") each attained the rank of major general, and Robert E. Lee Jr., that of captain. The latter served as a private in the Rockbridge Artillery at the Battle of Antietam.

During the Mexican-American War, Robert E. Lee received a brevet (honorary promotion) to colonel because of his gallantry and distinguished service. In 1852, he became Superintendent of the Military Academy. In 1855, Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, transferred Lee from staff officer to line officer and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel 2nd Cavalry. Lee was then sent to west Texas where he served from 1857-1861. In

February of 1861, General Winfield Scott recalled Lee from Texas when the lower South seceded from the Union.



When Virginia seceded from the Union, Lee resigned his commission rather than assist in suppressing the rebellion. His resignation came two days following the offer of Chief of Command of the U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott. He then proceeded to Richmond to become Commander-in-Chief of the military and naval forces of Virginia. When these forces joined the Confederate services, he was appointed Brigadier General in the Regular Confederate States Army.

Lee returned to Richmond in March of 1862 to become military advisor to President Davis. Whenever Lee had a plan, he took the initiative and acted at once. Cutting off supplies and reinforcements, executed by

Jackson at Seven Pines, was a successful Confederate venture. He also stopped McClellan's threat to Richmond during the Seven Day's Battles (June 26 - July 2, 1861). At the Battle of Second Manassas, Lee defeated Pope. At the Battle of Antietam, his northern thrust was checked by McClellan. However, he repulsed Burnside at Fredericksburg in December of 1862. In May of 1863, General Lee defeated General Hooker at Chancellorsville, but was turned to strategic and tactical defensive measures

at Gettysburg in July. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at the village of Appomattox Court House.

After the surrender, Lee became president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University). His example of conduct for thousands of ex-Confederates made him a legend even before his death on October 12, 1870. General Robert E. Lee is buried at Lexington, Virginia.



## Clara Barton: Angel of the Battlefield

*"In my feeble estimation, General McClellan, with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance beside the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield."*

-Dr. James Dunn, Surgeon at Antietam Battlefield.

Arriving at the northern edge of the infamous "Cornfield" around noon on September 17, Clara Barton watched as harried surgeons dressed the soldiers' wounds with cornhusks. Army medical supplies were far behind the fast-moving troops at Antietam. Barton handed over to grateful surgeons a wagonload of bandages and other medical supplies that she had personally collected over the past year.

Then Miss Barton got down to work. As bullets whizzed overhead and artillery boomed in the distance, Barton cradled the heads of suffering soldiers, prepared food for them in a local farmhouse, and brought water to the wounded men. As she knelt down to give one man a drink, she felt her sleeve quiver. She looked down, noticed a bullet hole in her sleeve, and then discovered that the bullet had killed the man she was helping. Undaunted, the unlikely figure in her bonnet, red bow, and dark skirt moved on — and on, and on, and on. Working non-stop until dark, she comforted the men and assisted the surgeons with their work. When night fell, the surgeons were stymied again — this time by lack of light. Barton produced some lanterns from her wagon of supplies, and the thankful doctors went back to work.



Miss Barton's timely arrival at the battlefield was no easy task. Only the day before, her wagon was mired near the back of the army's massive supply line. Prodded by Barton, her teamsters drove the mules all night to get closer to the front of the line. Within a few days after the battle, the Confederates had retreated and wagons of extra medical supplies were rolling into Sharpsburg. She collapsed from lack of sleep and a budding case of typhoid fever, and returned to Washington lying in a wagon, exhausted and delirious. She soon regained her strength and returned to the battlefields of the Civil War.

**Shy Tomboy**

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As Clara Barton moved briskly among the maimed and wounded soldiers at Antietam, few could imagine that she was once a shy child. Born in the central Massachusetts town of North Oxford on Christmas Day, 1821, Clarissa Harlowe Barton was the baby of the family. Her four brothers and sisters were all at least 10 years her senior. When she was young, Clara's father regaled her with his stories of soldiering against the Indians. Her brothers and cousins taught her horseback riding and other boyish hobbies. Although she was a diligent and serious student, Clara preferred outdoor frolics to

the indoor pastimes "suitable" for young ladies of that time.

Despite her intelligence, Clara was an intensely shy young girl, so much so that her parents fretted over it. At times, Clara was so overwrought she could not even eat. But the demure girl overcame her shyness in the face of a crisis — a pattern that would repeat itself during her lifetime. When her brother became ill, Clara stayed by his side and learned to administer all his medicine, including the "great, loathsome crawling leeches."

### **Trailblazer**

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Throughout her life, Clara Barton led by example. In an era when travel was arduous, and many men and almost all women stayed close to home, she traveled far and wide looking for new challenges. After teaching for several years in her hometown, she opted for additional schooling. After a year of formal education in western New York state, Barton resumed teaching in Bordentown, New Jersey. She taught at a "subscription school," where parents of the students chipped in to pay the teachers' salaries. On her way to school, Miss Barton noticed dozens of children hanging around on street corners. Their parents could not afford the "subscription," so she offered to teach for free if the town provided a school building. The first day, six students showed up, the next day 20, and within a year there were several hundred students at New Jersey's first free public school.

Having later lost her position as head of the school simply because she was a woman, Miss Barton moved to Washington, D.C. She took a job as a clerk at the U.S. Patent Office, no mean feat for a woman in those days. She even earned the same salary as male clerks. With the outbreak of war and the cascade of wounded Union soldiers into Washington, Barton quickly recognized the unpreparedness of the Army Medical Department. For nearly a year she lobbied the army bureaucracy in vain to bring her own medical supplies to the battlefields. Finally, with the help of sympathetic U.S. Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, Miss Barton was permitted to bring her supplies to the battlefield. Her self-appointed military duties brought her to some of the ugliest battlefields of 1862 - Cedar Mountain, Va., Second Manassas, Va., Antietam, Md., and Fredericksburg, Va.

### **An Idea Is Born**

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By 1863 the Army Medical Department was geared up for a major war, overwhelming any efforts made by a single individual such as Miss Barton. But she continued working

at battlefields as the war dragged on. Barton threw herself into her next project as the war ended in 1865. She helped with the effort to identify 13,000 unknown Union dead at the

horrific prisoner-of-war camp at Andersonville, Ga. This experience launched her on a nationwide campaign to identify soldiers missing during the Civil War. She published lists of names in newspapers and exchanged letters with veterans and soldiers' families. The search for missing soldiers and years of toil during the Civil War physically debilitated Miss Barton. Her doctors recommended a restful trip to Europe.

Although still ailing, another crisis jolted Miss Barton into action. The outbreak of war in 1870 between France and Prussia (part of modern-day Germany) brought hardship to many French civilians. Miss Barton joined the relief effort, and in the process, was impressed with a new organization — the Red Cross. Created in 1864, the Red Cross was chartered to provide humane services to all victims during wartime under a flag of neutrality.

### **A Life's Work**

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Miss Barton returned to the United States and began her most enduring work — the establishment of the American Red Cross. A reluctant U.S. government could not imagine the country ever again being involved in armed conflict after the Civil War. Finally, by 1881 at age 60, she persuaded the government to recognize the Red Cross to provide aid for natural disasters. Miss Barton continued to do relief

work in the field until she was well into her 70s. Political feuding at the American Red Cross forced her resignation as president in 1904.

Clara Barton died in 1912 at age 90 in her Glen Echo home. She is buried less than a mile from her birthplace in a family plot in Oxford, Mass.

## Freedom at Antietam

*"In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."*

-Abraham Lincoln

As the glowing sun set over the bloody fields and finally brought an end to the fighting at Antietam, the Civil War became a different war. Five days after the battle, armed with pen and paper, Abraham Lincoln changed the course of the war when he issued the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The proclamation reflected Lincoln's new way of thinking about the conflict. Until this time it was seen as a rebellion, a fight to preserve the Union without touching slavery. Now Lincoln promised to crush the Confederacy by destroying slavery, the basis of its economy and society. The North was now waging a moral crusade to free the slaves. While the Emancipation



Proclamation reflected Lincoln's high-minded morality, the president was under great pressure to act. Congress was urging emancipation. Escaped slaves were fleeing to the Union army as it advanced in the South, complicating military operations. The enlistment of black Americans as soldiers could give the Union's ailing war machine a much-needed boost.

### **Forever free, but when?**

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Lincoln's preliminary proclamation, issued on September 22, 1862, declared that on New Year's Day 1863 slaves in areas then "in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." For areas not deemed to be in rebellion, slavery would be unchanged. The final proclamation, issued January 1, 1863, identified those areas "in rebellion." They included virtually the entire Confederacy, except areas controlled by the Union army. The document notably excluded the so-called border states of Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware, and Missouri where slavery existed side by side with Unionist sentiment. In areas where the U.S. government had

authority, such as Maryland and much of Tennessee, slavery went untouched. In areas where slaves were declared free -- most of the South -- the federal government had no effective authority.

By the summer of 1862, Congress was pushing for emancipation. Now Lincoln's proclamation, a vital step on the gradual path to freedom for American slaves, articulated emancipation as the government's new policy. Although his famous proclamation did not immediately free a single slave, African Americans saw Lincoln as a savior. Official legal freedom for the slaves came in December 1865 with

the ratification of the 13th Amendment to

the Constitution abolishing slavery.

### **Political Tightrope**

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Like everything else in Lincoln’s administration, the slavery issue was fraught with political pitfalls. On one hand Lincoln was under pressure to attack slavery from Congress and from some of his own generals. Lincoln was beholden to the border states where some slave owners were loyal Union men. Lincoln was afraid to seize their private property (their slaves) and lose those states to the Confederacy, so he exempted them from his Emancipation

Proclamation. The timing of the proclamation was also political. Lincoln penned his first copy in July 1862, when Union armies were losing one battle after another. Secretary of State William Seward persuaded Lincoln that emancipation then would look like the last measure of an exhausted government. Lincoln decided to wait for a victory on the battlefield. Antietam gave him his opportunity.

### **Military Necessity**

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After the proclamation, Union troops became an army of liberation as they advanced in the South. During the war, one out of every seven Confederate slaves (about 500,000) escaped to the Union army. The South was thus deprived of desperately needed labor to till fields, build forts, and fix railroads. The Emancipation Proclamation also paved the way for the enlistment of black Americans as soldiers. During the summer of 1862, as Lincoln pondered emancipation, the North was facing a shortage of soldiers. Lincoln even offered volunteers enlistments for only nine months instead of the usual three years, hoping that a shorter enlistment would attract more recruits. One solution was to enlist African Americans, whether free men from the North or freed slaves from the South.

Despite deep and widespread prejudice, the Union began recruiting African Americans in earnest in early 1863. Believed by many at the time to be physically and spiritually unfit as fighting men, they were initially confined to non-combat jobs. African-

American soldiers proved their mettle on the battlefield. They distinguished themselves in May 1863 when they bravely attacked across open ground against Port Hudson on the Mississippi River in Louisiana. A month later, black troops made another valiant charge when they stormed Fort Wagner near Charleston, S.C. This famous attack was depicted in the movie *Glory*. About 186,000 African-Americans served in the Union army, making up about ten percent of Union army forces. The North's advantage in military manpower was a critical factor in its victory in the Civil War. Some northerners supported Lincoln’s measure on moral grounds. Many endorsed emancipation because they favored any action that would help defeat the enemy and end the war. “At last the outspread wings of the American eagle afford shelter and protection to men of all colors, all countries, and all climes,” said Frederick Douglass, the African American statesman, “and the long oppressed black man may honorably fall or gloriously flourish under the Star - Spangled Banner.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Emancipation Proclamation**

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.



## The Dunker Church: A Battlefield Shrine

The Battle of Antietam, fought September 17, 1862, was one of the bloodiest battles in the history of this nation. Yet, one of the most noted landmarks on this great field of combat is a house of worship associated with peace and love. Indeed, the Dunker Church ranks as perhaps one of the most famous churches in American military history. This historic structure began as a humble country house of worship constructed by local Dunker farmers in 1852. It was Mr. Samuel Mumma, owner of the nearby farm that



bears his name, who donated land in 1851 for the Dunkers to build their church. During its early history the congregation consisted of about half a dozen farm families from the local area.

### During The Battle

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On the eve of the Battle of Antietam, the members of the Dunker congregation, as well as their neighbors in the surrounding community, received a portent of things to come. That Sunday, September 14, 1862, the sound of cannons booming at the Battle of South Mountain seven miles to the east was plainly heard as the Dunkers attended church. By September 16, Confederate infantry and artillery was being positioned around the church in anticipation of the battle that was fought the next day.

During the Battle of Antietam, the church was the focal point of a number of Union attacks against the Confederate left flank. Most after-action reports by commanders of both sides, including Union General Hooker and Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, make references to the church.

At the end of the battle, the Confederates used the church as a temporary medical aid station. A sketch by well known Civil War artist Alfred Waud depicts a truce between the opposing sides being held in front of the church on September 18, to exchange wounded and bury the dead. At least one account states that, after the battle, the Union Army used the Dunker Church as an embalming station. One tradition persists that Lincoln may have visited the site during his visit to the Army of the Potomac in October 1862.

As for the old church, it was heavily battle scarred with hundreds of marks from bullets in its white washed walls. Artillery had seriously damaged the roof and walls. By 1864 the Church was repaired, rededicated and regular services were held there until the turn of the century.

### Who Were the Dunkers?

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Dunkers (also known as German Baptist Brethren) practiced modesty in their dress

and general lifestyle. Other Christian principles which the Dunkers stress are: the

brotherhood of man, including pacifism, opposition to slavery, temperance, and total abstinence from alcohol. Members from North and South refused military service. A typical Dunker church service supported their beliefs in simplicity. Hymns were sung

with no musical accompaniment from organ, piano or other instruments. The congregation was divided with men seated on one side and women on the other. The churches were simple with no stained glass windows, steeple or crosses.

### **After the War**

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The congregation built a new church in the town of Sharpsburg. Souvenir hunters took bricks from the walls of the old church and a lack of adequate maintenance weakened the structure. In 1921 a violent storm swept through the area flattening the church.

The land and church ruins were put up for sale and purchased by Sharpsburg resident Elmer G. Boyer. He salvaged most of the undamaged material of the building and sold the property. The new property owner built a

home on the foundation of the old church and in the 1930's operated a gas station and souvenir shop on the site. This structure was removed in 1951 when the property was purchased by the Washington County Historical Society. They donated the site, then just a foundation, to the National Park Service. The Church was restored for the 100th Anniversary of the Battle in 1962 on the original foundation with as much original materials as possible and now stands as a beacon of peace on the battlefield.

### **The Dunker Church Today**

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A visit to the Dunker Church today is like a step back into time. Take a seat inside and contemplate the sacrifice of the people of 1862. Note the simplicity of the church with its plain windows, wooden benches on

which you may have sat for hours during the services in bygone years, and the simple table at the front where the elders of the church would have read from the old Bible.

## Antietam National Cemetery

**The muffled drum's sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.**

*From the poem "Bivouacs of the Dead," by Theodore O'Hara*



### **INTRODUCTION**

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The Battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg, on September 17th, 1862 was the tragic culmination of Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the north. On that fateful late summer day, over 23,110 men were killed, wounded, or listed as missing. Approximately 4,000 were killed and in the days that followed, many more died of wounds or disease. The peaceful village of Sharpsburg turned into a huge hospital and burial ground extending for miles in all directions.

Burial details performed their grisly task with speed, but not great care. Graves ranged from single burials to long shallow

trenches accommodating hundreds. For example, William Roulette, whose farm still stands behind the Visitor Center today, had over 700 soldiers buried on his property. Grave markings were somewhat haphazard, from stone piles to rough hewn crosses and wooden headboards. A few ended up in area church cemeteries. In other cases, friends or relatives removed bodies from the area for transport home. By March of 1864, no effort had been made to find a suitable final resting place for those buried in the fields surrounding Sharpsburg. Many graves had become exposed, something had to be done.

### **ESTABLISHING A PLAN**

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In 1864, State Senator Lewis P. Firey introduced to the Maryland Senate a plan to establish a National Cemetery for the men who died in the Maryland Campaign of 1862. On March 23, 1865, the state established a burial site by purchasing 11¼ acres for \$1,161.75.

The original Cemetery Commission's plan allowed for burial of soldiers from both sides. However, the rancor and bitterness over the recently completed conflict and the

devastated South's inability to raise funds to join in such a venture persuaded Maryland to recant. Consequently, only Union dead were interred here. Confederate remains were re-interred in Washington Confederate Cemetery in Hagerstown, Maryland, Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland, and Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Approximately 2,800 Southerners are buried in these three cemeteries, over 60% of which are unknown.

### **AN ARDUOUS TASK**

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In an effort to locate grave sites and identify the occupants, no one was of more value than two area men: Aaron Good and Joseph

Gill. In the days, months and years following the battle, these men freely gave of their time and gathered a large number of

names and burial locations. The valuable service provided by these men cannot be overstated. The dead were identified by letters, receipts, diaries, photographs, marks on belts or cartridge boxes, and by interviewing relatives and survivors. Contributions totaling over \$70,000 were

submitted from eighteen Northern states to the administrators of the Antietam National Cemetery Board. With a work force consisting primarily of honorably discharged soldiers, the cemetery was completed by September, 1867.

## **DEDICATION**

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On September 17, 1867, on the fifth anniversary of the battle, the cemetery was ready for the dedication ceremonies. The ceremony was important enough to bring President Andrew Johnson and other dignitaries.

President Johnson proclaimed, *“When we look on yon battlefield, I think of the brave men who fell in the fierce struggle of battle, and who sleep silent in their graves. Yes, many of them sleep in silence and peace within this beautiful enclosure after the earnest conflict has ceased.”*

## **PRIVATE SOLDIER MONUMENT**

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The colossal structure of granite stands in the center of the cemetery, reaches skyward 44 feet- 7 inches, weighs 250 tons and is made of twenty seven pieces. The soldier, made of two pieces joined at the waist, depicts a Union infantryman standing “in place rest” facing homeward to the north. The soldier itself is 21½ feet tall, and weighs about thirty tons. Designed by James G. Baterson of Hartford, CT, and sculpted by James Poletto of Westerly, RI, for a cost of over \$32,000, the "Private Soldier" first stood at the gateway of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, PA in 1876. It

was disassembled again for the long journey to Sharpsburg.

On September 17, 1880, the statue was finally in place where it was formally dedicated. The journey of “Old Simon,” as he is known locally, had been delayed for several months when the section from the waist up fell into the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. When retrieved, it was transported on the C&O Canal, and dragged by using huge, wooden rollers through Sharpsburg to the cemetery.

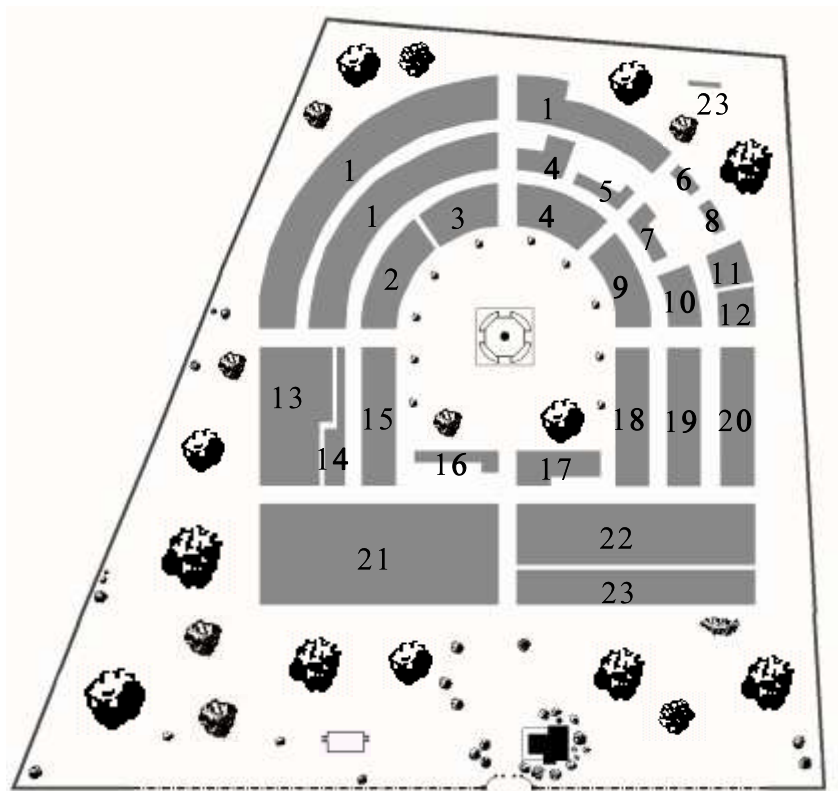
## THE CEMETERY TODAY

Antietam National Cemetery is one of the 130 cemeteries of the National Cemetery System, a system that began during the Civil War. There are 4,776 Union remains (1,836 or 38% are unknown) buried here from the battles of Antietam, South Mountain, Monocacy, and other action in Maryland. All of the unknowns are marked with small square stones. These stones contain the grave number, and if you look close on a few stones, a small second number represents how many unknowns are buried in that grave. There are also a few of the

larger, traditional stones that mark unknown soldiers. In addition, more than two hundred non-Civil War remains are buried here. Veterans and their wives from the Spanish American War, World War I and II, and Korea were buried here until the cemetery closed in 1953. If you walk to the back of the cemetery you will notice a few separate graves. Ironically, on the battlefield that led directly to Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, African-American graves from WW I were segregated to this out of the way corner.

### Key to the Cemetery

- 1-Unknown
- 2-MI
- 3-MD
- 4-WV
- 5-RI
- 6-MN
- 7-NH
- 8-IA
- 9-VT
- 10-NJ
- 11-IL
- 12-DE
- 13-OH
- 14-CT
- 15-MA
- 16-Officers
- 17-US Regs.
- 18-IN
- 19-WI
- 20-ME
- 21-NY
- 22-PA
- 23-Post Civil War



# Antietam National Battlefield

# TEACHING MATERIALS



*The Battle of Antietam*, by Thure de Thulstrup, 1887, published by L. Prang & Co, courtesy of the Library of Congress.

# Antietam National Battlefield

## **Scavenger Hunt**

The Battle of Antietam is best remembered as the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with well over 23,000 casualties. It was also the battle that led directly to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

This *Scavenger Hunt* is designed to further your understanding of the battle and the battlefield. It can be done either individually or, preferably, in groups. You will be asked a series of questions that will require you to pay attention as you follow the Antietam National Battlefield Tour Route. The answers to these questions are located along the tour route, but to find some, you may need to exit your vehicle. It is recommended that you read over the questions and familiarize yourself with them before you begin the battlefield tour because not all necessarily follow a chronological format. Teachers, this *Scavenger Hunt* is most effective if you have the students complete the questions as you follow the "People and Places" guide to tour the park.

Enjoy your day at the Antietam National Battlefield, and Happy Hunting!!

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**1. The German Baptist Brethren are better known by what nickname? (Hint: The church in which they worshipped is one of the most famous landmarks on the Antietam battlefield).**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Which monument on the Antietam battlefield features a red cross? Why do you think this is?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Six generals were either killed or mortally wounded at the Battle of Antietam. The location where each one fell is marked by a Mortuary Cannon, an upside-down cannon barrel mounted in stone. Can you name the generals who lost their lives at Antietam and find all six Mortuary Cannons?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_



4. The bugler of Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Artillery received the Medal of Honor for his distinguished service at the Battle of Antietam. What was his name? How old was he during the battle?

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5. What is the tallest monument on the Antietam National Battlefield? (Hint: It's located at Tour Stop # 5)

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6. The big white house and barn you see at Tour Stop #6 is the Mumma Farmstead. What happened to the Mumma's property during the battle?

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7. The monument at the base of the Observation Tower honors which famous Union unit? Can you identify all four regiments that fought with this unit?

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Three bridges cross the Antietam Creek in the area of the battlefield. Each one was a stone, three-arch bridge. At Tour Stop #9, you can see the Burnside Bridge. This bridge was named after Union General Ambrose E. Burnside, whose soldiers captured this bridge. Can you guess something else that was named after General BURNSIDE? (Hint: Think of a popular style of men's facial hair).

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9. As you travel the tour route back from the Burnside Bridge, can you name the two old houses that are located nearly across from one another near the stop sign?

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10. In the National Cemetery, you will find tablets on which are inscribed passages from a very famous poem. What is the name of this poem, and what was the name of the poet? (Hint: You will need to use the large National Cemetery book located on the rostrum at the entrance to the cemetery to find the name of the poet).

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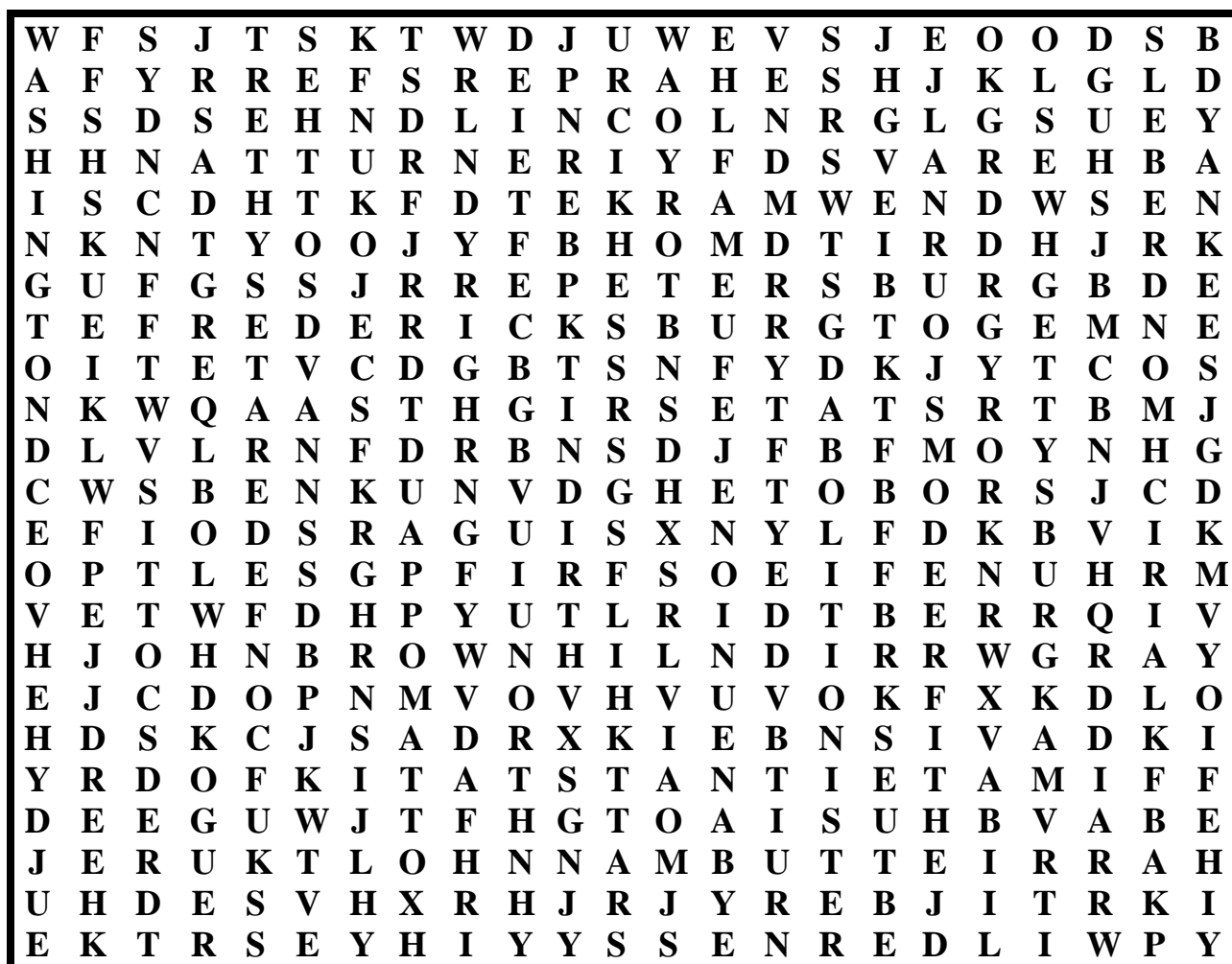
# Antietam National Battlefield

## **Scavenger Hunt Answer Key**

1. The Dunkers
2. The Clara Barton Monument at Tour Stop #2; She helped found the American Chapter of the Red Cross
3. William Starke: West Woods; Joseph Mansfield: East Woods; George B. Anderson: Sunken Road; Israel Richardson: Sunken Road; Lawrence O'Brian Branch: Branch Avenue; Isaac Rodman: near the Hawkins' Zouaves Monument
4. Johnny Cook; 15 years old
5. Philadelphia Brigade Monument
6. It was destroyed by fire by Confederate troops
7. The Irish Brigade; 29<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts; 63<sup>rd</sup> New York; 69<sup>th</sup> New York; 88<sup>th</sup> New York
8. Sideburns
9. The Otto Farmhouse; The Sherrick Farmhouse
10. "The Bivouacs of the Dead;" By Theodore O'Hara

## Civil War Word Search

(Difficult – Up, Down, Backwards, Diagonally)



Abolitionist  
 Antietam  
 Appomattox  
 Blue  
 Bull Run  
 Confederate  
 Davis  
 Dred Scott  
 Fredericksburg  
 Freedoms Journal

Fugitive  
 Gettysburg  
 Gray  
 Harpers Ferry  
 Harriet Tubman  
 John Brown  
 Lincoln  
 Nat Turner  
 New Market  
 North

Petersburg  
 Rebels  
 Richmond  
 Slavery  
 South  
 States Rights  
 Union  
 Washington DC  
 Wilderness  
 Yankees

## Special Orders No. 191: Map Activity

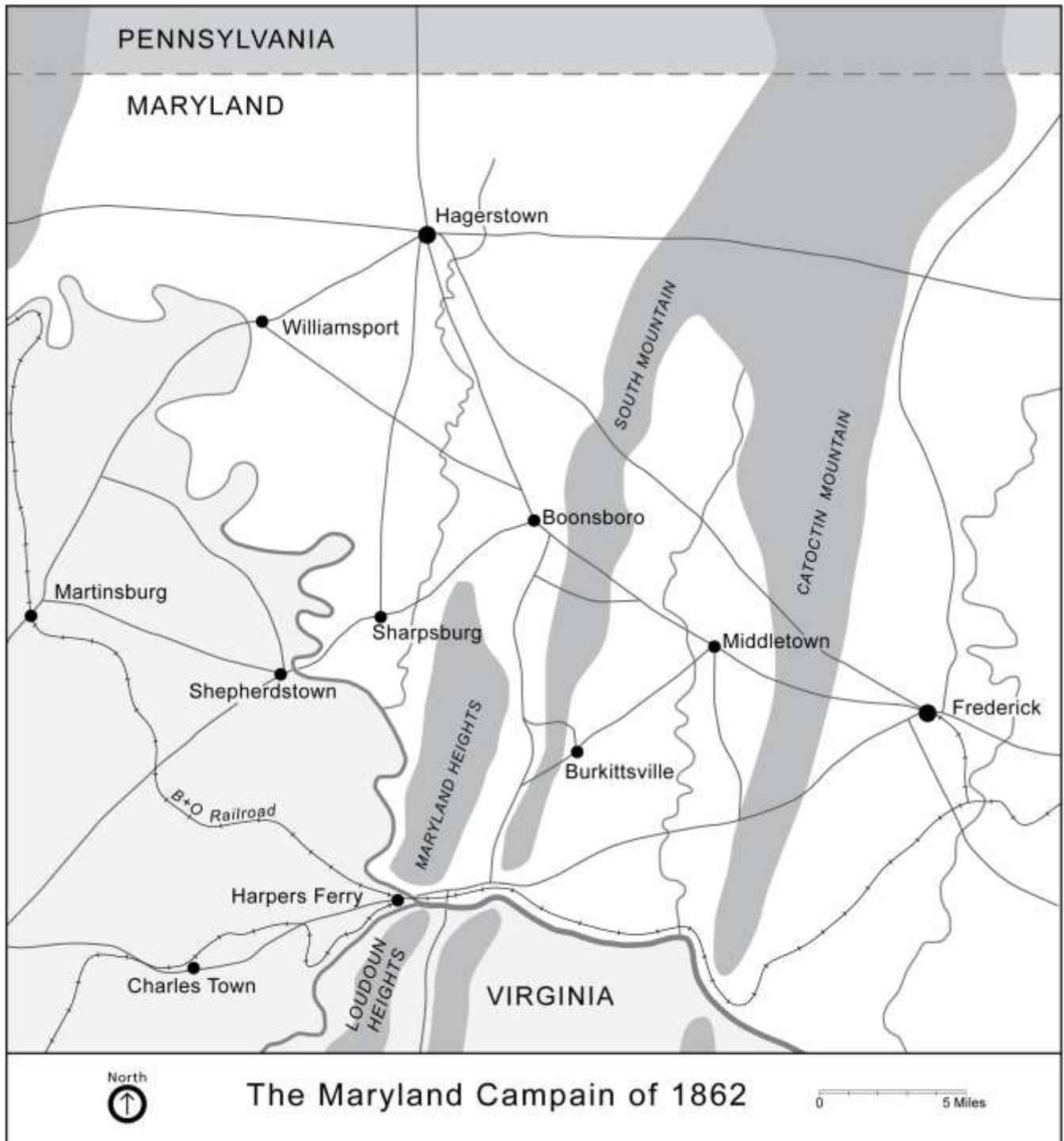
### Objectives:

Imagine you are General George B. McClellan, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac. General Robert E. Lee led his Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River and launched an invasion of Maryland. You are instructed to march immediately from Washington and drive the Lee's Confederate army off U.S. soil. For the first week of the campaign you are not sure where Lee's army is located and what Lee's intentions for the invasion are. Suddenly, while in your headquarters at Frederick, Maryland, a messenger arrives with an incredible discovery: a copy of Lee's plan, entitled Special Orders No. 191. Lee's plan was found by two Union soldiers, passed up the chain of command, and delivered to you.

Your objective is now to prepare a telegram for President Lincoln, informing him of the discovery, and summarizing the information contained therein. After that, you are to identify the locations of the following Confederate units on the accompanying map of western Maryland and northeastern Virginia:

- (1) Stonewall Jackson's command (three divisions);
- (2) James Longstreet's command (three divisions);
- (3) D.H. Hill's division;
- (4) Lafayette McLaws's and Richard H. Anderson's divisions;
- (5) John Walker's division;
- (6) Robert E. Lee's headquarters and the Confederate army's reserve artillery and supply trains.

Using the copy of Special Orders 191, label the locations of the Confederate units on the map:



## Special Orders No. 191: Lee's Lost Dispatch

Special Orders, No. 191  
Hdqrs. Army of Northern Virginia-September 9, 1862

1. The citizens of Fredericktown being unwilling while overrun by members of this army, to open their stores, in order to give them confidence, and to secure to officers and men purchasing supplies for benefit of this command, all officers and men of this army are strictly prohibited from visiting Fredericktown except on business, in which cases they will bear evidence of this in writing from division commanders. The provost-marshal in Fredericktown will see that his guard rigidly enforces this order.
2. Major Taylor will proceed to Leesburg, Virginia, and arrange for transportation of the sick and those unable to walk to Winchester, securing the transportation of the country for this purpose. The route between this and Culpepper Court-House east of the mountains being unsafe, will no longer be traveled. Those on the way to this army already across the river will move up promptly; all others will proceed to Winchester collectively and under command of officers, at which point, being the general depot of this army, its movements will be known and instructions given by commanding officer regulating further movements.
3. The army will resume its march tomorrow, taking the Hagerstown road. General Jackson's command will form the advance, and, after passing Middletown, with such portion as he may select, take the route toward Sharpsburg, cross the Potomac at the most convenient point, and by Friday morning take possession of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, capture such of them as may be at Martinsburg, and intercept such as may attempt to escape from Harpers Ferry.
4. General Longstreet's command will pursue the same road as far as Boonsborough, where it will halt, with reserve, supply, and baggage trains of the army.
5. General McLaws, with his own division and that of General R. H. Anderson, will follow General Longstreet. On reaching Middletown will take the route to Harpers Ferry, and by Friday morning possess himself of the Maryland Heights and endeavor to capture the enemy at Harpers Ferry and vicinity.
6. General Walker, with his division, after accomplishing the object in which he is now engaged, will cross the Potomac at Cheek's Ford, ascend its right bank to Lovettsville, take possession of Loudoun Heights, if practicable, by Friday morning, Key's Ford on his left, and the road between the end of the mountain and the Potomac on his right. He will, as far as practicable, cooperate with General McLaws and Jackson, and intercept retreat of the enemy.
7. General D. H. Hill's division will form the rear guard of the army, pursuing the road taken by the main body. The reserve artillery, ordnance, and supply trains, &c., will precede General Hill.
8. General Stuart will detach a squadron of cavalry to accompany the commands of Generals Longstreet, Jackson, and McLaws, and, with the main body of the cavalry, will cover the route of the army, bringing up all stragglers that may have been left behind.

9. The commands of Generals Jackson, McLaws, and Walker, after accomplishing the objects for which they have been detached, will join the main body of the army at Boonsborough or Hagerstown.

10. Each regiment on the march will habitually carry its axes in the regimental ordnance-wagons, for use of the men at their encampments, to procure wood &c.

By command of General R. E. Lee  
R. H. Chilton, Assistant Adjutant General



## A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier

Imagine you are no longer a student. You have joined the army as a private in the artillery. As a private in the Confederate army, you will be paid \$132 a year, or \$11 each month. You will be paid \$156 a year, or \$13 each month, if you are a Union soldier. Your enlistment (membership) in the army will last for three years.

Shortly after enlisting you are sent to a place called the Camp of Instruction (basic training). At the camp you are issued a uniform. This uniform includes the following items: a wool coat, wool trousers with suspenders, wool socks, leather shoes, a cotton shirt (and a wool shirt to wear in the winter), ankle-length drawers (long Johns or underwear), a kepi ["KEP-E"] (hat), and a great coat (winter overcoat). Be careful and take good care of your uniform. If you don't, the army can make you pay for any clothing or equipment issued to you that is lost or damaged.

The Camp of Instruction will last several weeks. In the Camp, you will attend the School of the Soldier. This means instructors will teach you how to stand at attention, salute, march, and perform many of the other duties of a soldier. As an artillery soldier, you will receive special training on how to load, fire, and take care of cannons.

As a soldier, you are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Monday through Saturday your day will generally go like this:

- 5:00 a.m.** A bugler will sound (play) "reveille" on a bugle. Everyone must get up, get dressed and prepare (wash your face and shave) for morning roll call. In the winter "reveille" is played at 6:00 a.m.
- 5:15 a.m.** The bugler sounds "assembly" and everyone (except those who are sick or on guard duty) falls in for roll call. When the sergeant calls your name, you answer, "Here, Sergeant!" After roll call, announcements, assignments, and instructions for the day are issued. Once this is completed you are dismissed.
- 6:00 a.m.** The next bugle call is "breakfast call." You will have one hour to eat.
- 7:00 a.m.** "Fatigue call" is played telling the soldiers to prepare for inspection. You must make sure your musket, uniform, bunk, and barracks are clean.
- 8:00 a.m.** After inspection, the bugler plays "drill call." For the next four hours, until noon, you will practice all the things you learned at the Camp of Instruction.
- 12:00 p.m.** "Dinner call" is sounded and you are allowed to eat your lunch.
- 1:00 p.m.** "Drill call" is sounded again. Until 4:00 p.m. you drill, drill, and drill.
- 4:00 p.m.** You will spend this time cleaning your equipment, barracks, cannons, and the fort.

**6:00 p.m.** "Attention" is called to give you a few minutes to get ready for roll call. Next, the bugler plays "assembly" and everyone falls in for dress parade roll call. This means everyone is in full uniform. You are carrying your musket and wearing all your equipment. After answering to roll call, the guard duty assignments are made and then you are dismissed.

**7:00 p.m.** The bugler now plays "assembly of the guard." Those soldiers assigned to guarding the fort begin performing this duty. The remaining soldiers eat their evening meal and relax.

**8:30 p.m.** - "Attention" is played followed by "assembly." At this time roll call is taken and you are dismissed.

**9:00 p.m.** - "Tattoo" is sounded. This means everyone must go to bed. Your day is finally over.

On Sunday the routine is the same except for drill. In the place of drill, everyone spends the morning hours polishing and cleaning everything, and then attend church services. In the afternoon, everyone prepares for a dress parade. Everyone wears their best uniform and marches back and forth on the fort's parade ground (like you see in a parade today). After doing this for a couple of hours, you are dismissed and have the rest of the day as free time.



## Common Soldier Activity

**Instructions:** You are a Civil War soldier getting ready for your first major campaign. You may be "on the road" for several months—sometimes marching over twenty miles/day, perhaps fighting several major battles with the enemy. The army has issued you a U.S. Model 1861 "Springfield" Rifle-Musket, bayonet, belt, bayonet scabbard, cap box, cartridge box, haversack and canteen. These weigh 13 1/2 pounds. In addition, you will be expected to carry five pounds of ammunition. From the list of personal items, decide what else you will take with you on your marches. Answers will vary.

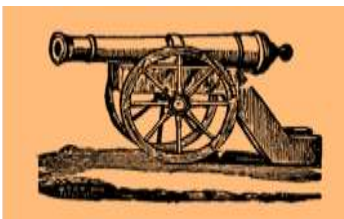
### List of Personal Items

| <u>Item</u>                              | <u>Weight of Item</u> | <u>(X) Quantity</u> | <u>(=) Total Weight</u> |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Pants                                    | 1 lb.                 | _____               | _____                   |
| Forage cap                               | 1/2 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Shirt                                    | 1/2 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Jacket                                   | 3 lbs.                | _____               | _____                   |
| Socks                                    | 1/2 lb. (pair)        | _____               | _____                   |
| Shoes                                    | 2 lbs.                | _____               | _____                   |
| Cup                                      | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Utensils                                 | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Cooking Pan                              | 1 lb.                 | _____               | _____                   |
| Canteen                                  | 4 lbs.                | _____               | _____                   |
| Soap                                     | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Shaving razor                            | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Comb                                     | 1/8 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Blanket                                  | 3 lbs.                | _____               | _____                   |
| Candle                                   | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Playing Cards                            | 1/8 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Bible                                    | 1/2 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Stationery                               | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| "Dog" Tent                               | 12 lbs.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Knife                                    | 1/4 lb.               | _____               | _____                   |
| Coat                                     | 4 lbs.                | _____               | _____                   |
| Rifle, cartridges, etc. required by Army |                       |                     | + 18 lbs.               |

TOTAL WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_

How much are you going to carry? If you would like, use a scale, backpack, and weights (books?) and load your total weight into a backpack and walk around the room to see what it would feel like to be a common soldier on the march. (Imagine marching 20 miles with that weight on your shoulders).

## Fill-In-The-Blank



The Battle of Antietam is also known as the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_. The Union Army usually named battles after the closest geographic feature, while the Confederate Army tended to name battles after the nearest town.

The Confederate Army was commanded by \_\_\_\_\_ and was comprised of approximately \_\_\_\_\_ men. In contrast, the Union Army, under the command of \_\_\_\_\_ was comprised of approximately \_\_\_\_\_ men. The ratio of Union to Confederate soldiers was \_\_\_\_\_.

Special Order 191 divided the Confederate Army. This document was also known as the \_\_\_\_\_. It was discovered in Frederick, MD by two Union soldiers who noticed it because it was wrapped around three cigars.

The Battle of South Mountain was fought on \_\_\_\_\_. This battle was an attempt by the Confederates to \_\_\_\_\_ the pursuing Union Army. This was necessary because Special Order 191 divided Lee's army, which, as a result, was now scattered and severely outnumbered. Some of his troops had been sent to Boonsboro and Hagerstown, Maryland. Another portion of Lee's army, under the command of \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to Harpers Ferry to capture the Federal garrison which contained weapons, food, clothing, and medical supplies—items desperately needed by the Confederates.

The Battle of Antietam occurred on \_\_\_\_\_. It consisted of three distinct phases known as the: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ phases. The first or \_\_\_\_\_ phase began at dawn when Union general \_\_\_\_\_ began firing upon Confederates in Miller's \_\_\_\_\_. Over the next three hours, this piece of ground would be savagely contested, changing hands several times. As a result, this portion of the battlefield sustained the heaviest casualties.

The second or \_\_\_\_\_ phase of the battle took place in the (location) \_\_\_\_\_. Brutal fighting occurred here for nearly four hours and resulted in horrific carnage. After the battle, this road would be forever known by its grisly name, \_\_\_\_\_.

The third or \_\_\_\_\_ phase of the battle took place southeast of Sharpsburg. Since 9:30 that morning, Union troops under the command of General \_\_\_\_\_ had tried to cross the Lower Bridge over \_\_\_\_\_. Union troops of approximately 9,000 men had been driven back by only 400 Georgian Sharpshooters. Finally, around 1 p.m., a

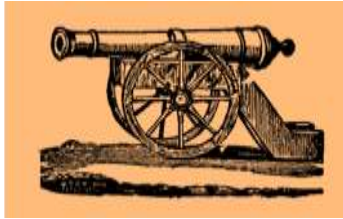
consolidated Union push succeeded in taking the bridge (now known as the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_) and thus forced the Confederates to retreat towards Sharpsburg. As the Union  
advanced, they were met by a Confederate division under the command of  
\_\_\_\_\_. This general had been left behind in Harpers Ferry to finalize the  
surrender of the Federal garrison. He forced his men to march the seventeen miles from Harpers  
Ferry in eight hours. Although his troops were exhausted, they were able to repulse the Union  
advance. By dusk, the Union troops had been pushed back to the hills above the lower bridge  
and the battle came to an end.

There was no renewed fighting the next day. Leaving their campfires burning, the Confederate  
Army quietly slipped across the Potomac River and retreated to Virginia.

The battle was considered a draw tactically. However, due to the Confederate retreat the Union  
considered it a strategic victory. This allowed U.S. President \_\_\_\_\_ to issue the  
\_\_\_\_\_. This document freed slaves in all states still in rebellion  
against the United States. This battle is also remembered as the bloodiest \_\_\_\_\_ in  
American History.



## Fill-in-the-Blank: Answer Sheet



The Battle of Antietam is also known as the Battle of **SHARPSBURG**. The Union Army usually named battles after the closest geographic feature, while the Confederate Army tended to name battles after the nearest town.

The Confederate Army was commanded by **GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE** and was comprised of approximately **40,000** men. In contrast, the Union Army, under the command of **GENERAL GEORGE B. McClellan** was comprised of approximately **80,000** men. The ratio of Union to Confederate soldiers was **TWO TO ONE (2:1)**.

Special Order 191 was Lee's battle plan. It divided the Confederate Army. This document was also known as the **LOST ORDER**. It was discovered in Frederick, MD by two Union soldiers who noticed it because it was wrapped around three cigars.

The Battle of South Mountain was fought on **SEPTEMBER 14, 1862**. This battle was an attempt by the Confederates to **DELAY, STALL, SLOW** the pursuing Union Army. This was necessary because Special Order 191 divided Lee's army, which, as a result, was now scattered and severely outnumbered. Some of his troops had been sent to Boonsboro and Hagerstown, Maryland. Another portion of Lee's army, under the command of **GENERAL STONEWALL JACKSON** was sent to Harpers Ferry to capture the Federal garrison which contained weapons, food, clothing, and medical supplies—items desperately needed by the Confederates.

The Battle of Antietam occurred on **SEPTEMBER 17, 1862**. It consisted of three distinct phases known as the: **MORNING, MID-DAY** and **AFTERNOON** phases. The first, or **MORNING** phase, began at dawn when Union general **JOE HOOKER** began firing upon Confederates in Miller's **CORNFIELD**. Over the next three hours, this piece of ground would be savagely contested, changing hands several times. As a result, this portion of the battlefield sustained the heaviest casualties.

The second or **MID-DAY** phase of the battle took place in the (location) **SUNKEN ROAD**. Brutal fighting occurred here for nearly four hours and resulted in horrific carnage. After the battle, this road would be forever known by its grisly name, **BLOODY LANE**.

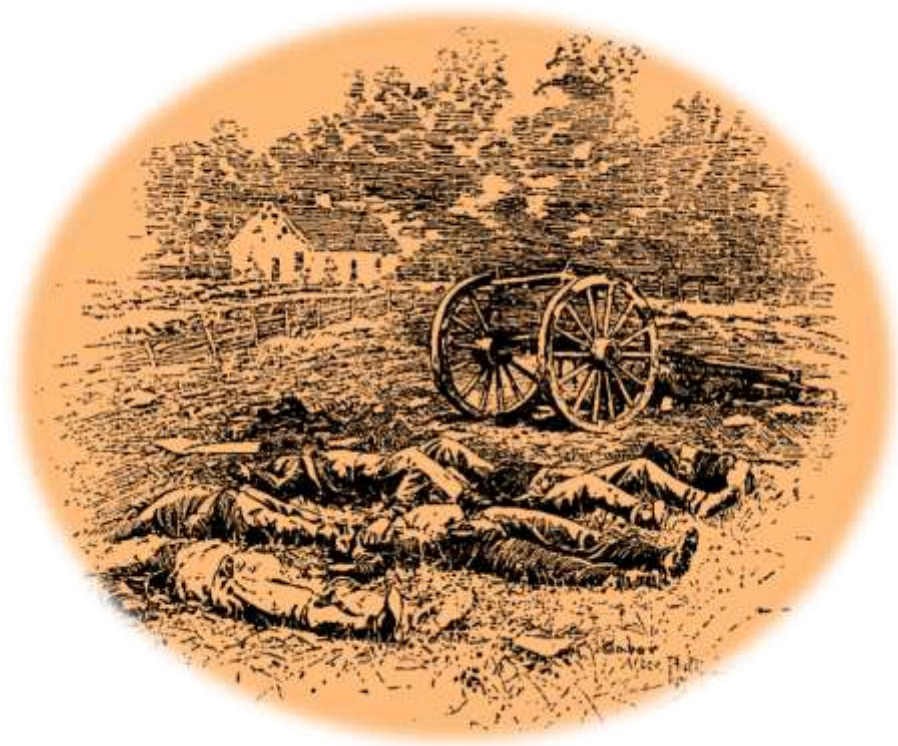
The third, or **AFTERNOON** phase of the battle took place southeast of Sharpsburg. Since 9:30 that morning, Union troops under the command of General **AMBROSE BURNSIDE** had tried to cross the Lower Bridge over **ANTIETAM CREEK**. Union troops of approximately 9,000 men had been driven back by only 400 Georgian Sharpshooters. Finally, around 1 p.m., a consolidated Union push succeeded in taking the bridge (now known as the **BURNSIDE**



**BRIDGE)** and thus forced the Confederates to retreat towards Sharpsburg. As the Union advanced, they were met by a Confederate division under the command of **GENERAL A.P. HILL**. This general had been left behind in Harpers Ferry to finalize the surrender of the Federal garrison. He forced his men to march the seventeen miles from Harpers Ferry in eight hours. Although his troops were exhausted, they were able to repulse the Union advance. By dusk, the Union troops had been pushed back to the hills above the lower bridge and the battle came to an end.

There was no renewed fighting the next day. Leaving their campfires burning, the Confederate Army quietly slipped across the Potomac River and retreated to Virginia.

The battle was considered a draw tactically. However, due to the Confederate retreat the Union considered it a strategic victory. This allowed U.S. President **ABRAHAM LINCOLN** to issue the **EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**. This document freed slaves in all states still in rebellion against the United States. This battle is also remembered as the bloodiest **DAY** in American History.



## The Battle of Antietam: Chronology

Listed below are **eight key events** that were important to the Battle of Antietam. Number them in the order in which they occurred.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival of A.P. Hill from Harpers Ferry
- \_\_\_\_\_ The fight for the Cornfield
- \_\_\_\_\_ Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas (Also known as 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Union assault of the Lower Bridge (Burnside Bridge)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finding Special Order 191
- \_\_\_\_\_ Battle of South Mountain
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fighting in the Sunken Road (Bloody Lane)





## **Antietam Chronology Answer Sheet**

Listed below are eight key events that were important to the Battle of Antietam. Number them in the order in which they occurred.

- 7   Arrival of A.P. Hill from Harpers Ferry
- 4   The fight for the Cornfield
- 1   Battle of 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas (Also known as 2<sup>nd</sup> Bull Run)
- 8   Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
- 6   Union assault of the Lower Bridge (Burnside Bridge)
- 2   Finding Special Order 191
- 3   Battle of South Mountain
- 5   Fighting in the Sunken Road (Bloody Lane)

## Antietam Word Scramble

To find out one of the main outcomes of the Battle of Antietam:

Unscramble each of the clue words. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number. This will help you find the answer at the bottom of the page.

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |  | 7 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |

## Antietam Word Scramble-Answers

To find out one of the main outcomes of the Battle of Antietam:

Unscramble each of the clue words. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number. This will help you find the answer at the bottom of the page.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

SLAVERY

DUNKER CHURCH

THE CORNFIELD

BLOODY LANE

BURNSIDE BRIDGE

ROBERT E. LEE

GEORGE B. McCLELLAN

CLARA BARTON

UNION

CONFEDERATE

SHARPSBURG

*Answer:* EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

## A Nation Divided

Today there are fifty states in the United States of America. When the Civil War began there were only thirty-four states. When the nation divided over political issues, nineteen states remained in the Union and eleven states seceded. Those eleven states joined the Confederate States of America. Four states were called Border States. The Border States were slave states located between the North and South that stayed in the Union.



### Instructions

Identify the states by writing the name (or abbreviation) with a ballpoint pen on or near the correct location.

\*Color the Union States blue.

\*Color the Confederate States gray.

\*Color the Border States green.

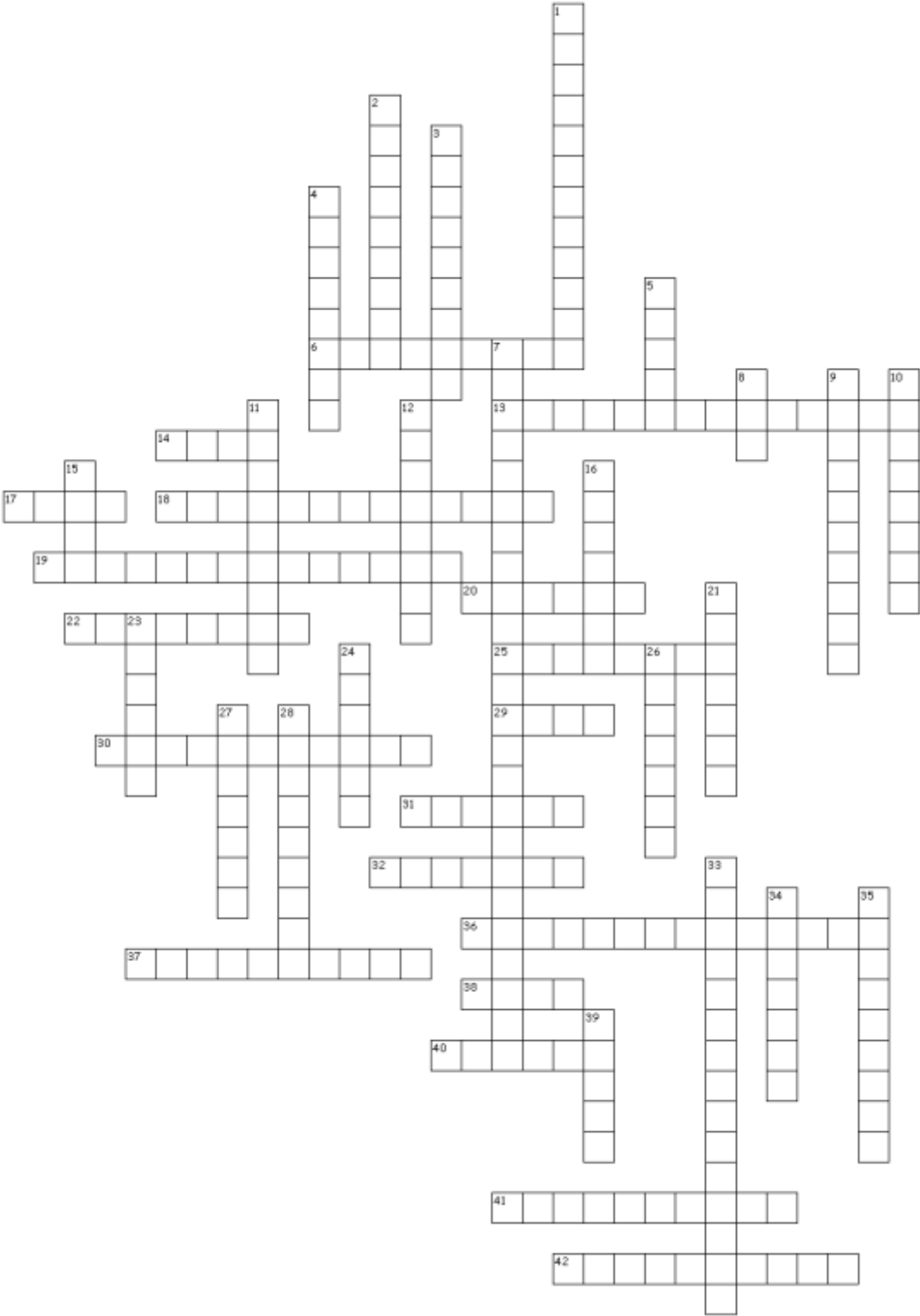
## **A Nation Divided: Answer Key**

**Blue:** There were nineteen (19) states that remained in the Union: Maine, New Hampshire; Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oregon and California.

**Gray:** There were eleven (11) states joining the Confederacy: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

**Green:** The four (4) Border States were: Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri.

*The American Civil War/Antietam Crossword Puzzle*



**Across**

6. Branch of service that used cannon
13. President of the United States of America during the Civil War
14. Union soldiers typically wore this color uniform
17. Confederate soldiers typically wore this color uniform
18. Name of battle fought on September 14, 1862
19. President of the Confederate States of America
20. The Civil War is also know as the War Between the \_\_\_\_\_
22. State in which the Battle of Antietam was fought
25. Nickname of statue in the Antietam National Cemetery
29. Antietam Battlefield today is a National \_\_\_\_\_
30. Civil War nurse who later founded the American Red Cross
31. Soldiers often used these for protection
32. Most common cause of death for Civil War soldiers
36. Divided free states and slave states
37. Name Confederate soldiers gave to the Battle of Antietam
38. If a soldier was mortally wounded he \_\_\_\_\_ from his wounds
40. \_\_\_\_\_ Church
41. Confederate Army commander at Antietam
42. General Lee surrendered to General Grant at \_\_\_\_\_ Court House on April 9, 1865

**Down**

1. Stonewall Jackson's men captured this town two days before Antietam
2. Antietam is known as America's \_\_\_\_\_ single day battle
3. Site of the deadliest fighting at Antietam
4. Famous African-American abolitionist, Frederick \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name of family whose farm was destroyed during the battle
7. Document that declared enslaved people in Confederate states "forever free"
8. Number of generals killed or mortally wounded at Antietam
9. Special Orders 191 is also known as Lee's \_\_\_\_\_
10. Delaware Indian term for "swiftly flowing water"
11. Most generals received their military training/education at \_\_\_\_\_
12. Famous bridge over the Antietam Creek
15. The Sunken Road is also known as Bloody \_\_\_\_\_
16. Nickname for Union soldiers
21. Soldiers used this to hold their water
23. Nickname for Confederate Soldiers
24. Opening shots of the Civil War fired at Fort \_\_\_\_\_
26. Civil War rifles were often referred to as \_\_\_\_\_
27. Soldiers on horseback
28. The Dunkers were \_\_\_\_\_, meaning they were opposed to violence and warfare
33. Union Army commander at Antietam
34. After the Emancipation Proclamation Union soldiers were fighting to destroy this
35. Month the Battle of Antietam was fought
39. The Antietam \_\_\_\_\_ empties into the Potomac River three miles south of Sharpsburg

***The American Civil War/Antietam Crossword Puzzle- Answer Key***

**Across**

- 6. Artillery
- 13. Abraham Lincoln
- 14. Blue
- 17. Gray
- 18. South Mountain
- 19. Jefferson Davis
- 20. States
- 22. Maryland
- 25. Old Simon
- 29. Park
- 30. Clara Barton
- 31. Fences
- 32. Disease
- 36. Mason Dixon Line
- 37. Sharpsburg
- 38. Died
- 40. Dunker
- 41. Robert E. Lee
- 42. Appomattox

**Down**

- 1. Harpers Ferry
- 2. Bloodiest
- 3. Cornfield
- 4. Douglass
- 5. Mumma
- 7. Emancipation Proclamation
- 8. Six
- 9. Lost Order
- 10. Antietam
- 11. West Point
- 12. Burnside
- 15. Lane
- 16. Yankees
- 21. Canteen
- 23. Rebels
- 24. Sumter
- 26. Muskets
- 27. Cavalry
- 28. Pacifists
- 33. George B. McClellan
- 34. Slavery
- 35. September
- 39. Creek



# Civil War Word Bank

Use the names and words listed on this page as a resource for Civil War research projects, oral reports, writing assignments, and other activities.

## Project Ideas:

- 1) You are a Civil War Soldier. Write a letter home and tell them about your experiences at Antietam. What did you see and do? How did you feel?
- 2) You live on a farm near Sharpsburg. What did you and your family do before, during, and after the battle? What did your farm look like after the battle? How did this make you feel?
- 3) You are a war correspondent working for a newspaper in New York City. You have been following the Union army and have just witnessed the battle. What would you write to make the battle come alive for your readers?
- 4) You are a Civil War doctor or nurse. You have to give General McClellan a detailed report about the status of the field hospitals and the patients. What would you tell him? What would you ask for?
- 5) You are an archaeologist. You have found a Civil War era grave near the Bloody Lane. What did you find during your excavation? What do the objects you found tell you about the person buried in the grave?

| <b>People</b>       | <b>Places</b>     | <b>Things</b>     |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Clara Barton        | Sharpsburg        | Antietam Creek    |
| Abraham Lincoln     | South Mountain    | Potomac River     |
| Robert E. Lee       | Harpers Ferry     | Observation Tower |
| George B. McClellan | the Cornfield     | Cannon            |
| Johnny Cook         | Bloody Lane       | Graves            |
| Charlie King        | Dunker Church     | Monument          |
| Ambrose E. Burnside | Mumma Farm        | National Park     |
| John Bell Hood      | Burnside Bridge   | Artifacts         |
| J.E.B. Stuart       | West Woods        | Fences            |
| Samuel Mumma        | Pry House         | Barn              |
| The Dunkers         | National Cemetery | Tour Road         |
| Sara Edmonds        | Field Hospital    | Photography       |
| Isaac Rodman        | Border State      | Emancipation      |
| Surgeons            |                   | Musket            |
| Farmers             |                   | Flat              |

# You're the Gunner Math Activity

## Teacher Instructions and Answer Sheet

**Method:** Students use the table of fire and other diagrams in the handouts to estimate distances, calculate rates of fire, and select appropriate artillery projectiles.

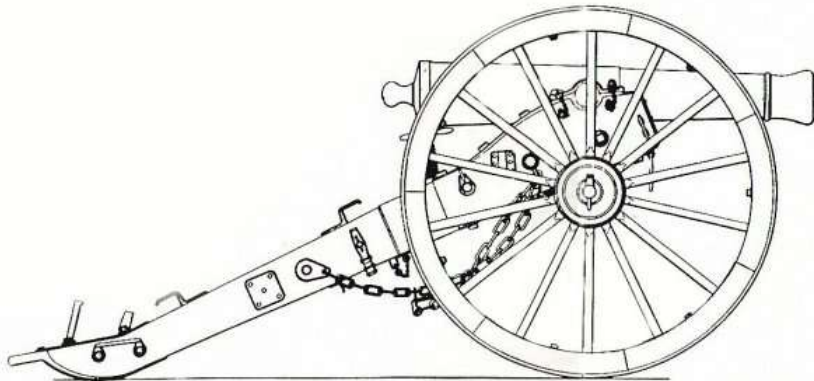
**Objective:** At the end of the activity, the students will be able to:

Make calculations related to Civil War artillery using information on projectile ranges and tables of fire.

### Answer Key

- 12-Pounder Smoothbore-because it can shoot up to 1,600 yards and it is good for medium-range fire against enemy soldiers
  - The Parrot Rifle-because it is good for accurate fire against buildings
  - Rifled
- 5 degrees, 6 ½ seconds
  - 2.5 miles
- Spherical case-because the range is too far for canister and case shot works better than solid shot on soldiers marching in a line of battle.
  - Solid shot-It has the correct range and it works well against buildings.
- Less than one round per minute (.972)
  - 6.94 hours
- 1.19 to 1

Bonus Question: Recoil, mud, wheels sinking, moveable targets, change in type of ammunition.



## You're the Gunner Math Activity

### Problem #1

You have three types of cannons in your battery: a 10-pound Parrott rifle, a six-pounder smoothbore, and a Napoleon (a 12-pounder smoothbore). Use the table below to answer the following questions:

- A. Which cannon would you use against advancing soldiers who are 1,500 yards away? Why?
- B. Which cannon would you use to destroy a brick building? Why?
- C. Which has a longer range, rifled or smoothbore cannons?

| <b>TYPES OF CANNONS</b>                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SIX-POUNDER GUN (SMOOTHBORE)</b>                                             |
| <b>Good for medium-range fire against enemy soldiers and good for canister.</b> |
| <b>Range: Up to 1,300 yards.</b>                                                |
| <b>NAPOLEON (12-POUNDER SMOOTHBORE)</b>                                         |
| <b>Like the six-pounder, but more destructive and shoots farther.</b>           |
| <b>Range: Up to 1,600 yards.</b>                                                |
| <b>10-POUNDER PARROTT (RIFLE)</b>                                               |
| <b>Good for long-range accurate fire against buildings or enemy artillery.</b>  |
| <b>Range: Up to 2,000 yards.</b>                                                |

## Problem #2

The elevation of the cannon tube determines how far a projectile travels. Use the table of fire below to answer the following questions. Hint: 1/4 mile = 440 yards, 1/2 mile = 880 yards, 1 mile = 1,760 yards

A. Find the elevation in degrees required to hit troops 1.25 miles away in the Cornfield using shell. Approximately how long would the shell be in flight?

B. A 20-pound Parrott Gun elevated to 15 degrees will fire a shell how many miles?

| <h1>TABLE OF FIRE</h1> <h2>20-PDR. PARROTT GUN</h2> <h3>CHARGE, 2 LBS. OF MORTAR POWDER</h3> |                        |                   |                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| ELEVATION<br>IN DEGREES                                                                      | PROJECTILE             | RANGE<br>IN YARDS | TIME OF<br>FLIGHT<br>IN SECONDS |
| 1                                                                                            | CASE SHOT, 19 1/2 LBS. | 620               | 1 7/8                           |
| 2                                                                                            | “                      | 950               | 3 1/8                           |
| 3 5/8                                                                                        | SHELL, 18 3/4 LBS.     | 1500              | 4 3/4                           |
| 5                                                                                            | “                      | 2200              | 6 1/2                           |
| 10                                                                                           | “                      | 3350              | 11 1/4                          |
| 15                                                                                           | “                      | 4400              | 17 1/4                          |

### Problem #3

There are several different types of ammunition available to the gunner. Use the table below to figure out what kind of ammunition to fire if:

A. Soldiers are marching toward you from the Cornfield in a line. They are 850 yards away from you. Explain your choice.



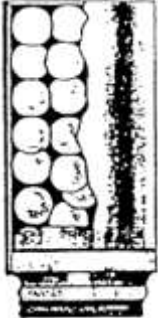
B. You want to destroy the Piper Farm 900 yards away to prevent snipers from hiding there. Explain your choice.

**SOLDIERS IN A COLUMN**

↑  
X X X X  
X X X X  
X X X X

**SOLDIERS IN A LINE OF BATTLE**

↑  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

| <b>TYPES OF AMMUNITION</b>                                                                               |                                                                                                  |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SOLID SHOT</b>                                                                                        | <b>SPHERICAL CASE</b>                                                                            | <b>CANISTER</b>                                                                       |
|                       |               |  |
| <p><b>Used against buildings and used like a bowling ball against soldiers marching in a column.</b></p> | <p><b>Used against soldiers marching in line of battle and used against enemy artillery.</b></p> | <p><b>Used against soldiers charging the cannon at close range.</b></p>               |
| <p><b>Range: 800-1,500 yards</b></p>                                                                     | <p><b>Range: 600-1,400 yards</b></p>                                                             | <p><b>Range: Less than 300 yards</b></p>                                              |

## Problem #4

Captain John Tompkins, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Artillery, moved his battery into position near where the present park visitor center stands. His guns fired south towards the Piper Farm, then they were turned to fire on Confederates charging from the Dunker church, then they resumed firing to the south.

- A. During this barrage, which lasted three hours, Tompkins' six guns fired 1,050 rounds of ammunition. What is the average number of rounds per minute per gun?
- B. If Tompkins Battery has six cannon and 2,500 rounds of ammunition and if each cannon could fire one round per minute how long until Tompkins' gunners are out of ammunition?

## Problem #5

The Army of the Potomac had 293 guns present at Antietam. The Confederate Army had an estimated 246 guns. What was the percentage of Union to Confederate guns at Antietam?

## Bonus Question

Name several factors that would cause an artillery gunner to reposition or re-aim the cannon?



## Letters and Diaries of Soldiers and Civilians



**Please Note:** These primary sources retain the wording, spelling, punctuation, and lack of punctuation as written by the eyewitnesses of the Battle of Antietam and those who experienced its aftermath.

**Teachers:** This handout contains excerpts of eyewitness accounts, diary entries, and letters for you to read to your students or to assign to your students as an independent reading activity. Afterwards, have the students imagine that they are Civil War soldiers or civilians. Have them compose their own journal entries or letters to loved ones.

\* \* \* \* \*

4<sup>th</sup> N.C. Volunteers  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1862  
Camp near Bunker Hill

Dear Father, Mother and Sisters,

It has been some time since I wrote to you all. I have heard from you two or three times. I have been in Maryland since I wrote to you and have been in two very hard battles in Maryland and came out unhurt. I see a great deal and could tell you more than I write if I could see you.

Our regiment did not have many wounded nor killed but a good many taken prisoners. Frank Shepherd and John Fennster we suppose are taken. We have not heard from them since the fight. They were not in the fight; were left at the camp. The Yankees took them. On their escape they took a good many of our negroes. That was a great victory at Harper's Ferry. I would like to have been in that. Our men did not fire a gun. They burn the Yankees to death and they give up everything and raised a white flag and attack their army. The men say that they saw it and was the best thing they ever saw. The seventh regiment N.C. was there and saw it all. E. Morrison Scroggs was telling me about how they done. He saw it all. I would like to have been there.

Our regiment used everything we had. I have no blanket nor any clothes but what I have got. I have got the suit on that you sent me. They came in a good time. I like them very well. If I had a good pair of shoes I would be the best clothed man in the regiment.

Pa, I want you to have me a pair of boots made. Those shoes you had made for me ripped all to pieces. Our regiment used everything we had. I have no blanket nor any clothes but what I have got. I have got the suit on that you sent me. They came in a good time. I like them very well. If I had a good pair of shoes I would be the best clothed man in the regiment.

Cousin Dr. Hill is wounded in the knee very bad. I have nothing more for my paper is scarce. Write soon to your only son.

W. Adams



Sunday Sept. 21, 1862

Dear Folks,

On the 8<sup>th</sup> we struck up the refrain of "Maryland, My Maryland!" and camped in an apple orchard. We went hungry, for six days not a morsel of bread or meat had gone in our stomachs - and our menu consisted of apple; and corn. We toasted, we burned, we stewed, we boiled, we roasted these two together, and singly, until there was not a man whose form had not caved in, and who had not a bad attack of diarrhea. Our under-clothes were foul and hanging in strips, our socks worn out, and half of the men were bare-footed, many were lame and were sent to the rear; others, of sterner stuff, hobbled along and managed to keep up, while gangs from every company went off in the surrounding country looking for food. . . Many became ill from exposure and starvation, and were left on the road. The ambulances were full, and the whole route was marked with a sick, lame, limping lot, that straggled to the farm-houses that lined the way, and who, in all cases, succored and cared for them. . .

In an hour after the passage of the Potomac the command continued the march through the rich fields of Maryland. The country people lined the roads, gazing in open-eyed wonder upon the long lines of infantry . . . and as far as the eye could reach, was the glitter of the swaying points of the bayonets. It was the Ursi ragged Rebels they had ever seen, and though they did not act either as friends or foes, still they gave liberally, and every haversack was full that day at least. No houses were entered - no damage was done, and the farmers in the vicinity must have drawn a long breath as they saw how safe their property was in the very midst of the army.

Alexander Hunter

\* \* \* \* \*

It was no longer alone the boom of the batteries, but a rattle of musketry--at first like pattering drops upon a roof; then a roll, crash, roar, and rush, like a mighty ocean billow upon the shore, chafing the pebbles, wave on wave, with deep and heavy explosions of the batteries, like the crashing of the thunderbolts.

*Charles Carleton Coffin, Army Correspondent*

\* \* \* \* \*

Sometimes a shell would burst just over our heads, scattering the fragments among us.

*Lt. Thomas H. Evans, 12th U.S. Infantry*

\* \* \* \* \*

Captain Bachelles had a fine Newfoundland dog, which had been trained to perform military salutes and many other remarkable things. In camp, on the march, and in the line of battle, the dog was his constant companion. The dog was by his side when he fell.

*Union Major R. R. Dawes, 6th' Wisconsin*

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*William Child, Major and Surgeon with the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers*

September 22, 1862 (Battlefield Hospital near Sharpsburg)

My Dear Wife;

Day before yesterday I dressed the wounds of 64 different men - some having two or three each. Yesterday I was at work from daylight till dark - today I am completely exhausted - but shall soon be able to go at it again.

The days after the battle are a thousand times worse than the day of the battle - and the physical pain is not the greatest pain suffered. How awful it is - you have not can have until you see it any idea of affairs after a battle. The dead appear sickening but they suffer no pain. But the poor wounded mutilated soldiers that yet have life and sensation make a most horrid picture. I pray God may stop such infernal work - through perhaps he has sent it upon us for our sins. Great indeed must have been our sins if such is our punishment.

Our Reg. Started this morning for Harpers Ferry - 14 miles. I am detailed with others to remain here until the wounded are removed - then join the Reg. With my nurses. I expect there will be another great fight at Harpers Ferry.

Carrie I dreamed of home night before last. I love to dream of home it seems so much like really being there. I dreamed that I was passing Hibbards house and saw you and Lud. in the window. After then I saw you in some place I cannot really know where - you kissed me - and told me you loved me - though you did not the first time you saw me. Was not that quite a soldier dream? That night had been away to a hospital to see some wounded men - returned late. I fastened my horse to a peach tree - fed him with wheat and hay from a barn near by - then I slept and dreamed of my loved ones away in N.H.

Write soon as you can. Tell me all you can about my business affairs and prospects for the future in Bath. Will Dr. Boynton be likely to get a strong hold there. One thing sure Cad, I shall return to Bath - if I live - and spend my days there. I feel so in that way now. Give me all news you can. Tell Parker and John and the girls to write although I can not answer them all. Tell Parker I will answer his as soon as I can.

In this letter I send you a bit of gold lace such as the rebel officers have. This I cut from a rebel officers coat on the battlefield. He was a Lieut

I have made the acquaintance of two rebel officers - prisoners in our hands. One is a physician - both are masons - both very intelligent, gentlemanly men. Each is wounded in the leg. They are great favorites with our officers. One of them was brought off the field in hottest of the fight by our 5<sup>th</sup> N.H. officers - he giving them evidence of his being a mason.

Now do write soon. Kisses to you Clint & Kate. Love to all.

Yours as ever  
W.C.

\* \* \* \* \*

Diary entry of September 17, 1862  
Robert Kellogg, 14th Conn. Vol.

This has been indeed a fearful day, and it is by God's kindnes alone that I am here to write this We woke up early in the morning I went out and read The Bible and a prayer. In a few minutes the enemy began to throw shells at us from a battery which they had planted near us, killing several of the 8th C.V. We were then moved to the right into a cornfield, but we had hardly got there when the order was countermanded, and we were marched to the left, about 1/4 of a mile, directly under a rapid fire of shells from the rebels, into the forest. The shells burst all around and in us. Our Chaplain had his coat pocket torn by a fragment of shell, and one of Co. I was wounded in the arm. After lying in the woods awhile we were formed and marched about 2 mile over hills and through valleys, fording a river about knee deep. From the ford, we were marched to a side hill near it. Here the Rebels again opened on us from another battery, wounding some of our men. We were after awhile formed and marched over the hill and finally in a sort of valley, behind our battery - here we had to lie down under the bursting of the enemy's shells. One shell burst so near as to scatter dirt in my face as I laid upon the ground. After staying here a short time we were ordered over the hill and were formed in a cornfield upon the opposite side. While we were lying here we were suddenly ordered to come to "attention", as we were obeying this order, a most terrific volley was fired into us - Spiens(?), Maxwell, Willy, Tallcut, Pease and many others of Co. A were here wounded. It is said that the rebels carried the American flag and called to us "don't fire on your own." After staying here a little while and the storm of bullets keeping on I ——— through the valley to the hill beyond when we were formed with the 11th C.V. to support a battery. We went up the hill to the fence in a storm of shell and shot. The battery soon was withdrawn and we with the 11th C.V. were marched off the field some distance beyond the hospital when we formed and rested for the night. Co. A mustered 6 men beside the Capt. but soon a few more came in. Went over to see Thayer who was shot through the shoulder. Came back and laid down to sleep. Thus ended our first day of battle and a fearful one it was. (*14th Conn. Vol. fought from near the Mumma farmhouse, down to the west of the Roulette farm near Sunken Road.*)

\* \* \* \* \*

*11<sup>th</sup> Connecticut (Fought at Burnside Bridge)*

Sunday Sept. 21, 1862

Sharpsburg, MD

Dear Wife,

Your letters 3 in number reached me 1st evening, and it gave me much pleasure to hear from you. I should have written you before, but did not know for a certainty where to direct. You will doubtless have learned the details of this great battle before this reaches you. The loss of the 11<sup>th</sup> is dreadful.

I followed in the rear of the Regt. Until it reached the fatal bridge that crosses the creek, this bridge is composed of 3 stone arches and the stream is about the size of that one just west of Berlin. The enemies sharpshooters commenced the action being posted in trees and under cover of a wall on the high ground on the other side of the creek, the order was for the 11<sup>th</sup> to take and hold the bridge until the division of Genl. Rodman passed.

The action soon became general all along the lines, language would fail me to describe the scene. I was in company with the surgeons and we laid ourselves down between the hills of corn and in a lot west of the bridge being a corn field. I had a bag of bandages and some few other things in hand, we lay low I can assure you and the way the bullets whistled around us is better imagined than described. The shells also bursting over our heads and on the ground around us. The attack was perfectly successful, we fell back to a brick house *Vi* a mile in the rear and established a hospital.

I took off my coat to dress wounds and met with a great loss. Some villain rifled my pockets of several packages of medicine, my fine tooth comb and what I valued most my needle book containing the little lock of hair you put in. No money would have bought it. It was not the value that I cared for, but the giver. Can you replace it. I should be pleased with your photograph which you spoke of. I think that it will be so that I can get a little box by express soon. I am still in the hospital near the battle ground the Regt. having moved about 3 miles. I will tell you where to send the box soon. You need not put Co. K on my letters in future, but simply Dr G. Bronson 11 Regt. C Burnside division with name of place (Washington) for the present.

Give me love to all our friends.

Very Truly yours

George

\* \* \* \* \*

8<sup>th</sup> Conn. Volunteers

September 19, 1862

Dear People,

One moment of time before the mail leaves. I am well and in good spirits. We have just had a big battle day before yesterday. The baggage wagons are in sight and we will all not fit. We have not sent any mail for about a fortnight and I would have written more had I known we could have sent it. Will write more the first opportunity I have.

We are on the move and are going into Virginia probably now. We have served in the last two battles.

Give my respects to all friends and others

Yours truly,  
Henry  
14<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers

\* \* \* \* \*

October 14, 1862 Harper's Ferry

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I wish that I was home today; I have got a very mean job. You know that we lost our good Captain and now they think they must put me on guard, and I sit right down on the ground and write just as fast as I can to let you know how I am getting along. Not much you had better believe. My hearing is not as good as it was when I left Madison, and my health has not been good since I was on this hill not far from Harper's Ferry, but I keep about and train all the time is wanted of me. It seems rather hard to be a soldier, but I have got to be one after all, I think. But I can tell you one thing: If I ever live to get home, I won't be another I can tell you, but I suppose that you are making some cider. If you get a chance to send me anything, send me some cider put up in bottles, and some apples and a little bottle of pain killer, and don't try to send me any cake or anything that will get smashed, but I want anything that will keep a week. I have not any news to send you today because I wrote to you the other day and suppose that you will get that first. Give my love to all the neighbors and tell Mister Hill that I received his letter and was glad to hear from him and will try and answer him as soon as possible.

Tell little Charley that I think a great deal of his letter. I used to say that he could read better than I could read better than I could and he beats me at writing and spelling both, and I could read it very fast, his letter. I am glad to hear that your crops are as good and I hope that all the folks are good because we don't have nothing to eat here, and so I hopes you have got something to eat there. I will try and answer as fast as I can, but won't you answer me as fast you can because that it makes me feel pleased to hear from home. Give my love to all the folks and tell them I want to see them all.

From a brother,

John Redfield  
13<sup>th</sup> New Jersey

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A strong, sturdy-looking Reb was coming laboriously on with a Yank of no small proportions perched on his shoulders. Wonderingly I joined the group surrounding and accompanying them at every step, and then I learned why all this especial demonstration; why the Union soldiers cheered and again cheered this Confederate soldier, not because of the fact alone that he had brought into the hospital a sorely wounded Federal soldier, who must have died from hemorrhage had he been left on the field, but from the fact, that was palpable at a glance, that the Confederate too was wounded. He was totally blind; a Yankee bullet had passed directly across and destroyed both eyes, and the light for him had gone out forever. But on he marched, with his brother in misery perched on his sturdy shoulders. He would accept no assistance until his partner announced to him that they had reached their goal - the field hospital. It appears that they lay close together on the field, and after the roar of battle had been succeeded by that painfully intense silence that hangs over a hard-contested battlefield; where the issue is yet in doubt, and where a single rifle shot on the skirmish line falls on your ear like the crack of a thousand cannon. The groans of the wounded Yank reached the alert ears of his sightless Confederate neighbor, who called to him, asking him the nature and extent of his wounds. On learning the serious nature of them, he said: "Now, Yank, I can't see, or I'd get out of here mighty lively. Some darned Yank has shot away my eyes, but I feel as strong otherwise as ever. If you think you can get on my back and do the seeing, I will do the walking, and we'll sail into some hospital where we can both receive surgical treatment." This programme had been followed and with complete success.

We assisted the Yank to alight from his Rebel war-horse, and you can rest assured that loud and imperative call was made for the surgeons to give not only the Yank, but his noble Confederate partner, immediate and careful attention.

J. O. Smith  
(Roulette Farm Field Hospital)

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1<sup>st</sup> Texas Vol.  
November 28, 1862

Pa

I received your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. a few days ago but have not had opportunity of writing until now. I am surprised at you not receiving my letters written after the Sharpsburg fight. I cannot see why my letter should not reach home as soon as others. I wrote you soon after the fight & gave you all the information I could about Robert. I have been inquiring and hunting for him

ever since he was lost. I can hear nothing from him. I feel that he was slain although I cannot give him up yet. There is some chance for him to be alive yet. He may have been badly wounded and still in the hands of the enemy. There has been some of my boys sent back to Maryland that I thought was killed. They saw nothing of Robert but say he may be there somewhere as our boys were scattered all over Md. I hope he may turn up yet someday. I have felt miserable since he has been gone and it is with deep regret that I have to communicate his loss to you. I hope you all will not think hard of me for not giving you all the particulars of his fate when it was out of my power and as my letters failed to reach you. We were overpowered by the enemy and compelled to give up the battlefield leaving behind our killed and wounded with some prisoners & were not permitted to go on the field after the fight. Consequently I cannot tell the result of the missing. We are not lying in sight of the Yankee tents. Only the Rappahannock River behind us. May expect a fight any day but I do not think they will attempt to cross this winter. The weather is very cold but we stand it very well. Have plenty of clothes. Some shoes wanting. Our boys are in fine health and our army is in good condition. We expect to go into winter quarters shortly. I intend to come home this winter if I can. I may have to resign to do so but I intend to come. My health has not been good for some time & I think I have tried it long enough here to satisfy me. You spoke of coming here. I would advise you not to come as you cannot accomplish anything by the trip. If Robert can be found I will find him before I come. If killed, we will have to give him up for a time. I'm glad you sold Jake as Negroes are cheap. I think it my duty to come home awhile at least. Excuse my writing with pencil as ink is scarce in camp. Write to me often. I will do the same. I close,

This from your Son  
W.H. Gaston

*Union private of Lieutenant White's Company (Account of his own experiences in the fighting near the Cornfield)*

My ramrod is wrenched from my grasp as I am about to return it to its socket after loading. I look for it behind me, and the Lieutenant passes me another, pointing to my own, which lies bent and unfit for use across the face of a dead man. A bullet enters my knapsack just under my left arm while I am taking aim. Another passes through me haversack, which hangs upon my left hip. Still another cuts both strings of my canteen, and that useful article joins the debris now thickly covering the ground. Having lost all natural feeling I laugh at these mishaps as though they were huge jokes, and remark to my nearest neighbor that I shall soon be relieved of all my trappings. A man but a few paces from me is struck squarely in the face by a solid shot. Fragments of the poor fellow's head came crashing into my face and fill me with disgust. I grumble about it as though it was something that might have been avoided.

\* \* \* \* \*

*13<sup>th</sup> New Jersey (Area near the East Woods)*

Someone in the ranks asked what had become of John Ick and Reddy Mahar, two members of their company. Lem Smith, another member of the company, said that he saw them heading

towards the rear at a run. Sergeant Hank Van Orden was then ordered to go find the two and bring them back. Off he went and before long he came to a tree at the base of which was a large rock. But as the sergeant moved closer, the rock started to look a little odd. Suddenly, the "rock" coughed. Van Orden gave the rock a swift kick and up popped John Ick. He had found an old, mud covered, rubber overcoat and drawn it over him. But not the jig was up and the sergeant ordered the skulker back to the regiment. Ick said that he had "had enough of the slaughter house business and was going home." The sergeant had no patience for this, however, and made him come along. In the end, though, Ick got over his panic and performed well in battle.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Account from an unknown soldier*

At the Battle of Antietam, as one of the regiments was for the second time going into the conflict, a soldier staggered. It was from no wound, but in the group of dying and dead through which they were passing, he saw his father, of another regiment, lying dead. A wounded man, who knew them both, pointed to the father's corpse, and then upwards, saying only, 'It is all right with him.' Onward went the son, by his father's corpse, to do his duty in the line, which, with bayonets fixed, advanced upon the enemy. When the battle was over, he came back. and with other help. buried his father. From his person he took the only thing he had. a Bible, given to the father years before, when he was an apprentice.

\* \* \* \* \*

*September 26, 1862 (In a hospital near the Battlefield of Antietam)*

Dear Wife,

Thinking perhaps that you would like to hear from me. I now have a few moments in writing to you to let you know of an accident which happened to me on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup>. One of the 135 P.V. boys accidentally shot me through the back. The ball passed through my lungs and lodged some where and is in me yet. I suffered considerable pain for the few first days but now I am more comfortable now and am not in much pain. Our brigaid did not get along from Washington soon enough to be engaged in the Battle of the day before. There was a hard fought battle and many lives lost on both sides but I think the loss of the Rebels were more than double our loss. I hope that you will not grow uneasy about me for I am doing as well as can be and have good care for brother William is with me taking care of me and as soon as I get well enough I am coming home and to be with you again, I do not want you to write until you hear from me again for a letter would not come through. I am now 10 miles from Middletown Md and as soon as we get moved I will write to you to let you know where we are moved to. As I do not think of any thing more that will interest you I will bring this letter to a close and write to you again in a few days.

From your affectionate and loving husband,

Erred Fowles



*(Erred Fowles died on October 6, 1862. He is buried in Grave #3724 in the cemetery at Antietam. His daughter, Ida May Fowles, was born October 10, 1862.)*

\* \* \* \* \*

September 21, 1862  
8th Florida Volunteer Infantry Regiment  
Sheherdstown, Jefferson County Virginia

My dear wife,

I write to let you know that I am now in this place badly wounded, was shot on Wednesday the 17th near Sharpsburg Washington County Maryland, about three miles from this place. The ball entered my left shoulder and lodged in my brest where it still is. I want you or my brother to come to see me Come by Richmond in Virginia then on to Winchester where you will only be twenty two miles from here. You can then get a conveyance to this place probably by the railway which comes down to Harpers Ferry where a connection is made to a station called Kearneys Ville that is only five miles from here and by the time can here from me and get to this region of country the stage which runs to that place in times of quiet about here, may be running again. We have had hard marching to do, and desperate fighting, our Captain was killed the same day I was shot.

I remain as ever your  
Devoted husband  
Bird B Wright

\* \* \* \* \*

*From the memoirs of Henry Kyd Douglas*

I was crossing the main street of town, when I saw a young lady, Miss Savilla Miller, whom I knew, standing on the porch of her father's house, as if unconscious of the danger she was in. At the time the firing was very heavy, and ever anon a shell would explode over the town or in the streets, breaking windows, knocking down chimneys, perforating houses and roofs. Otherwise the village was quiet and deserted, as if it was given up to ruin. It gave one an odd sensation to witness it. Knowing the great danger to which Miss Savilla was exposed, I rode up to protest and ask her to leave.

"I will remain here as long as our army is between me and the Yankees," she replied with a clam voice, although there was excitement in her face. "Won't you have a glass of water?"

Before I had time to answer, she was gone with her pitcher to the well and in an instant she was back again with a glass in her hand. As she approached me, a shell with a shriek in its flight came over the hill, passed just **over** us down the street and exploded not far off. My horse, "Ashby," sank so low in his fright that my foot nearly touched the curb, some cowardly

stragglers on the other side of the street, trying to hide behind a low porch, pressed closer to the foundations of the house, but over the face of the heroic girl only a faint shadow passed through the house from the gable, she took refuge for a little while in the cellar; but when the battle ended, she was still holding the fort.

A "green" Confederate soldier described the shelling of Sharpsburg that took place during the artillery bombardment of September 16:

Every shell went screaming, whistling, whining over our heads, and not a few burst near by us. Sometimes shell after shell would burst in quick succession over the village. . . . None of our soldiers were in the town, except the cooks and a few stragglers who hid themselves in the cellars as soon as the bombardment began, and told us afterwards of the wonderful escapes they made from 'them bursting lamp-posts.'

\* \* \* \* \*

The force of a mini ball or piece of shell striking any solid portion to a person is astonishing; it comes like a blow from a sledge hammer, and the recipient finds himself sprawling on the ground before he is conscious of being hit; then he feels about for the wound, the benumbing blow deadening sensation for a few moments. Unless struck in the head or about the heart, men mortally wounded live some time, often in great pain, and toss about upon the ground."

*History of the 35th Massachusetts Volunteers, p. 48.*

\* \* \* \* \*

A frenzy seized each man, and impatient with their small muzzle loaded guns, they tore the loaded ones from the hands of the dead and fired them with fearful rapidity, sending ramrods along with the bullets for double execution.

*Pvt. G. L. Kilmer, Company I, 14th New York Artillery, John P. Smith, "History of the Antietam Fight," in Scrapbook of J. P. Smith.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The truth is, when bullets are whacking against tree trunks and solid shot are cracking skulls like eggshells, the consuming passion in the breast of the average man is to get out of the way."

*Pvt. David L. Thompson, Company G, 9th New York Volunteers Battles and Leaders. Vol. II, p. 662.*

Under the dark shade of a towering oak near the Dunker Church lay the lifeless form of a drummer boy, apparently not more than 17 years of age, flaxen hair and eyes of blue and form of delicate mould. As I approached him I stooped down and as I did so I perceived a bloody mark upon his forehead...It showed where the leaden messenger of death had produced the wound the caused his death. His lips were compressed, his eyes half open, a bright smile played upon his countenance. By his side lay his tenor drum, never to be tapped again.

*Pvt. J. D. Hicks, Company K, 125th Pennsylvania Volunteers John P. Smith, "History of the Antietam Fight," in Scrapbook of J. P. Smith.*

\* \* \* \* \*

I recall a Union soldier lying near the Dunker Church with his face turned upward, and his pocket Bible open upon his breast. I lifted the volume and read the words: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.' Upon the fly-leaf were the words, 'We hope and pray that you may be permitted by kind Providence, after the war is over, to return.'

*Charles Carlton Coffin, Army Correspondent, Boston Journal "Antietam Scenes," Battles and Leaders. Vol II, p. 685.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Comrades with wounds of all conceivable shapes were brought in and placed side by side as thick as they could lay, and the bloody work of amputation commenced.

*George Allen, Company A, 6th New York Volunteers, From "Scenes in the Hospital at Keedysville," The Antietam Wavalet. Keedysville, Maryland, March 29, 1890.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Our first tire was rattling volley; then came the momentary interval occupied in loading. The rifles were, of course, muzzle loaders, with iron ramrods; the cartridges were new and the brown paper of the toughest description, so that strong fingers were required to tear out the conical ball and the little paper cap of gunpowder. Emptying these into the muzzle and ramming home and capping the piece took time—seemingly a long time in the hurry of action...

*History of the 35th Massachusetts Volunteers, p. 47.*

It was no longer alone the boom of the batteries, but a rattle of musketry--at first like pattering drops upon a roof; then a roll, crash, roar, and rush, like a mighty ocean billow upon the shore, chafing the pebbles, wave on wave, with deep and heavy explosions of the batteries, like the crashing of the thunderbolts.

*Charles Carleton Coffin, Army Correspondent, Boston Journal. "Antietam Scenes," Battles and Leaders. Vol. II, p. 683.*

\* \* \* \* \*

I was lying on my back, supported on my elbows, watching the shells explode overhead and speculating as to how long I could hold up my finger before it would be shot off, for the very air seemed full of bullets, when the order to get up was given, I turned over quickly to look at Col. Kimball, who had given the order, thinking he had become suddenly insane.

*Lt. Matthew J. Graham, Company H, 9th New York Volunteers The 9th Regiment. New York Volunteers, p. 293.*

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Sometimes a shell would burst just over our heads, scattering the fragments among us.

*Lt. Thomas H. Evans, 12th U.S. Infantry "Waiting to Attack by Bumside Bridge," Civil War Times, April 1968.*

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The third shell struck and killed my horse and bursting, blew him to pieces, knocked me down, of course, and tore off my right arm...

*Pvt. Ezra E. Stickley, Company A, 5th Virginia Infantry "Wounded at Sharpsburg," Confederate Veteran Magazine. Vol XXV, No. 9, September 1917, p. 400.*

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Such a storm of balls I never conceived it possible for men to live through. Shot and shell shrieking and crashing, canister and bullets whistling and hissing most fiend-like through the air until you could almost see them. In that mile's ride I never expected to come back alive.

*Lt. Col. A.S. "Sandie" Pendleton, CSA Douglass Southall Freeman, Lee's Lieutenants. New York, 1946, p. 208.\**

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"In the time that I am writing every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut as closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before. It was never my fortune to witness a more bloody, dismal battlefield."

*Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, Official Records (US War Department), Series I, Vol. 19, Part 1, p.218.*

## Civil War Glossary & Slang

**ACTIVITY:** Students are to write a letter, containing at least three paragraphs and totaling at least one page in length, as if they are a Civil War soldier who had just survived the Battle of Antietam. They are also to include at least five of the terms defined below.

**Abolitionist:** Someone who believed that slavery should be abolished.

**Artillery:** Division of the army that handled cannon and other large weapons.

**Bombproof:** An underground shelter.

**Bread Basket:** Stomach.

**Bummer:** A loafer, forager, or someone safely in the rear during a battle.

**Bummer's Cap:** Regulation fatigue or forage cap.

**Casualty:** A soldier injured, killed, captured, or missing in action.

**Cavalry:** Soldiers trained to fight on horseback.

**Confederate:** The government established by the southern states after they seceded from the Union in 1860 and 1861, called the Confederate States of America.

**Dragoons:** Heavily armed subdivision of the cavalry.

**Duds:** Clothing.

**Federal:** Having to do with the northern United States and those loyal to the Union during the Civil War; also a member of the Union army.

**Fit as a Fiddle:** In good shape; healthy, feeling good.

**Fresh Fish:** New recruits.

**Front:** The area where the armies are fighting.

**Goobers:** Peanuts.

**Grab a Root:** Have dinner with a potato.

**Graybacks:** Southern soldiers.

**Hayfoot/Strawfoot:** Command used to teach new soldiers the difference between left (hayfoot) and right (strawfoot).

**Here's Your Mule:** A term the infantry used to insult cavalry.

**Hornets:** Bullets.

**Hospital Rat:** Person who fakes illness.

**Housewife:** Sewing kit.

**Infantry:** Soldiers trained to fight on foot.

**Jawings:** Talking.

**Opening the Ball:** Beginning of a battle.

**Picket Line:** The line between Union and Confederate soldiers on the battlefield.

**Picket:** A guard or a soldier on guard duty.

**Possum:** Buddy, friend.

**Sawbones:** Surgeon.

**Siege Fighting:** Long battles where troops are in trenches or fortifications, for several days to several months, fighting only sporadically.

**Snug as a Bug:** Very comfortable or cozy.

**Sutler:** Army camp follower who sold provisions to the soldiers.

**Top Rail:** First class, the best.

**Union:** The United States of America, especially the northern states during the American Civil War.

**Vittles:** Food or rations.

**Web Feet:** A term the cavalry had for the infantry.

**Wig-Wag:** A letter-number code represented by certain positions and movements of a signal flag.

**Signal Flag:** Flag used to communicate on the battlefield.

**Zouave:** An Algerian word for soldiers known for their fierce fighting style, flashy uniforms, and incredible bravery. Units devoted to the Zouave style fought in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War.

**Zuzu:** Slang term for Zouaves.

## **Antietam: Aftermath of Battle**

### **First-Person Accounts Writing Activity**

**Description:** *The aftermath of Civil War battles remains among the least studied aspects of the conflict. The following are first-person accounts penned by soldiers and doctors in the days immediately after the Battle of Antietam. These accounts provide excellent descriptions of the treatment of wounded soldiers, the difficulties encountered by medical personnel, the burial of the dead, and the impact of the battle upon the local civilian population in the immediate aftermath of Antietam.*

**Objective:** *After reading the following reports and quotes, students are to write an essay, at least two pages in length that describes the aftermath of Antietam. Students are to comment upon the treatment of the wounded and dying soldiers and the impact of the battle upon the local civilian population.*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ***1. Excerpt from the Official Report of Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director, Army of the Potomac.***

“Immediately after the retreat of the enemy from the field of Antietam, measures were taken to have all the Confederate wounded gathered in from the field, over which they laid scattered in all directions, and from houses and barns in the rear of their lines, and placed under such circumstances as would permit of their removal to be effected to Frederick and thence to Baltimore and Fortress Monroe to their own lines. They were removed as rapidly as their recovery would permit. The duty of attending to these men was to Surgeon Rauch, U.S. Volunteers, to whom assistants were given from our own officers and all the medical officers who had been left by the enemy to look after their wounded. A sufficient number of ambulances having been placed at his disposal and supplies given him, these wounded were collected in the best and most convenient places, and everything done to alleviate their suffering that was for our own men. Humanity teaches us that a wounded and prostrate foe is not then our enemy.

“There were many cases both on our right and left whose wounds were so serious that their lives would be endangered by their removal, and to have every opportunity afforded them for recovery the Antietam hospital, consisting of hospital tents, and capable of comfortably accommodating, nearly 600 cases, was established at a place called Smoketown, near Keedysville, for those who were wounded on our right, and a similar hospital, but not so capacious—the Locust Spring Hospital—was established in the rear of the Fifth Corps for those cases which occurred on our left. To one or other of these hospitals all the wounded were carried whose wounds were of such a character as to forbid their removal to Frederick or elsewhere. The inspections made of these hospitals from time to time were a source of great gratification, as they made known to me the skillful treatment which these men received and the care with which they were watched over, and convinced me of the propriety of the adoption of this course in regard to them. Surgeon Vanderkief, U.S. Volunteers, who was in charge of the Antietam hospital, was unceasing in his

labors, and showed a degree of professional skill and executive ability much to be admired. Great care and attention were shown to the wounded at the Locust Spring hospital by Surgeon Squire, Eighty-Ninth New York Volunteers, who had charge of it. Both hospital were kept in excellent order.

“Immediately after the battle a great many citizens came within our lines in order to remove their relatives or friends who had been injured and in a great many instances when the life of the man depended upon his remaining at rest. It was impossible to make them understand that they were better where they were, and that a removal would probably be done only with the sacrifice of life. Their minds seem bent on having them in a house. If that could be accomplished, all would, in their opinion, be well. No greater mistake could exist, and the result of that battle only added additional evidence of the absolute necessity of a full supply of pure air, constantly renewed—a supply which cannot be obtained in the most perfectly constructed building. Within a few yards a marked contrast could be seen between the wounded in houses and barns and in the open air. Those in houses progressed less favorably than those in barns, those in barns less favorably than those in the open air, although all were in other respects treated alike.

“The capacious barns, abundantly provided with hay and straw, with delightful weather with which we were favored, and the kindness exhibited by the people, afforded facilities to the medical department for taking care of the wounded thrown upon it by that battle. From the frequent inspections which I made from time to time, and from the reports of inspections made of the hospitals, and the manner in which the duties required in them were performed by medical officers, it gives me no little pleasure to say that the wounded had every care that could be bestowed upon them—that they were promptly, willingly, and efficiently attended to. And although I have more than once spoken to the general commanding concerning the conduct of medical officers on that battlefield, I cannot refrain from alluding here to the untiring devotion shown by them to the wounded of that day. Until all the wounded were finally disposed of, no pains were spared, no labor abstained from, by day or by night, by the medical officers of this army, to alleviate the suffering of the thousands of wounded who looked to them for relief. The medical directors of corps. . . were untiring in their exertions and unceasing in their labors, and were ably assisted by the staff under their commands. Very few delinquencies occurred, and these were swallowed up by the devotion exhibited by the rest of the medical staff during and long after the battle.

“The surgery of these battlefields has been pronounced butchery. Gross misrepresentations of the conduct of medical officers have been made and scattered broadcast over the country, causing deep and heart-rending anxiety to those who had friends or relatives in the army, who might at any moment require the services of a surgeon. It is not to be supposed that there were no incompetent surgeons in the army. It is certainly true that there were; but these sweeping denunciations against a class of men who will favorably compare with the military surgeons of any country, because of the incompetency and short-comings of a few, are wrong, and do injustice to a body of men who have labored faithfully and well. It is easy to magnify an existing evil until it is beyond the bounds of truth. It is equally easy to pass by the good that has been done on the other side. Some medical officers lost their lives in their devotion to duty in the Battle of Antietam, the others sickened from excessive labor which they conscientiously and



skillfully performed. If any objection could be urged against the surgery of those fields, it would be the efforts on the part of surgeons to practice ‘conservative surgery’ to too great an extent.

“I am convinced that if any fault was committed it was that the knife was not used enough. So much has been said on this matter that, familiar as I am with the conduct of the medical officers on those battle-fields, I cannot, as the medical director of this army, see them misrepresented and be silent.”

**2. *Quotes from Dr. William Child, Surgeon, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Infantry:***

“The days after the battle are a thousand times worse than the day of the battle.”

“The masses rejoice [over the victory], but if all could see the thousands of poor, suffering, dying men their rejoicing would turn to weeping.”

**3. *Quote from an unnamed doctor serving with the United States Sanitary Commission:***

“. . . there is not a barn, or farmhouse, or store, or church, or schoolhouse, between Boonsboro and Sharpsburg and Smoketown, that is not gorged with wounded—Rebel and Union. Even the corn cribs, and in many instances the cow stables, and in one place the mangers were filled. Several thousand lie in open air straw, and all are receiving the kind services of the farmers’ families and the surgeons.”

**4. *Two Union soldiers describe the arrival of tourists on the battlefield just days after the fight.***

“The country people flocked to the battlefield like vultures, their curiosity and inquisitiveness most astonishing; while my men were all at work, many of them stood around, dazed, awestricken by the terrible evidence of the great fight.”

“Hundreds were scattered over the field, eagerly searching for souvenirs in the shape of cannon balls, guns, bayonets, swords, canteens, etc.”

**5. *Accounts of Private George Allen of the 76<sup>th</sup> New York, who was detailed as a hospital steward following Antietam. He served as a steward in a hospital that was established in the Reformed Church, in nearby Keedysville, Maryland.***

“Boards were laid on top of the seats, then straw and blankets. . . . Comrades with wounds of all conceivable shapes were brought in and placed side by side as thick as they could be laid and then the surgeons, myself and a corps of nurses with sleeves rolled up, worked, with tender care and anxiety to relieve the pain and save the lives of all we could. A pit was dug just under the window at the rear of the church and as soon as a limb was amputated I would take it to the window and drop it outside into the pit. The arms, legs, feet and hands that were dropped into that hole would amount to several hundred pounds.”

“Every morning, those that had died during the night were taken out and buried in a trench, usually without ceremony.”

**6. Account of Martha Mumma Thomas, a resident of Sharpsburg, who, as a little girl witnessed the Battle of Antietam and its aftermath:**

“The battlefield presented a scene of desolation, difficult to describe. On our front porch was a pile of legs and arms and men laying dead all around the house. They were buried as soon as the army could get to them. . .The entire farm was covered with shells. Some had exploded and some had not. Father had all of these hauled away and thrown into the creek in the deep water. He remarked that the bottom of the creek must be paved with them, from the amount he hauled and dumped there.”

**7. Account of James Snyder, a sixteen-year-old native of Sharpsburg who experienced the battle and its aftermath first-hand:**

“After the Battle of Antietam, the streets of the town of Sharpsburg were strewn with debris, dead and wounded men. Dead horses were found all through the town. The stench arising from the battlefield was almost intolerable.”

“On Friday afternoon after the battle, I took a stroll over the field of carnage and there witnessed a number of sad sorrowful sights. At Dunker Church, Bloody Lane and Burnside Bridge the loss of life was frightful. At these points, the dead were piled in heaps. The very earth was furrowed by the incessant impact of lead and iron. Shells, cannon balls, canisters and leaden bullets lay in countless numbers over the field. At Bloody Lane at the deepest part I saw Confederate piled five deep lying exposed to the hot sun so long that they had turned black.”

“Under the dark shade of a towering oak near the Dunker Church lay the lifeless form of a drummer boy, apparently not more than 17 years of age. As I approached him, I stooped down and as I did so I perceived a bloody mark on his forehead. It showed where the leaden messenger of death had dealt its blow. His lips were compressed and his eyes were half open. By his side lay his tenor drum, never again to be tapped by him. In his right hand was clutched with the tendency of death, a piece of white paper. An officer standing by succeeded in forcing it, all crumbled and torn, from his stiffened icy fingers. The note contained a few lines and they were addressed to his mother. They read as follows: ‘Dear Mother I have fallen. Oh, that you were here to offer up a prayer for your dying son. If ever these lines of your poor boy reach you, pray that our spirits may meet in Heaven.’ Here is broke off and it appeared as though the pencil, during the death struggle, had fallen from his hand and lay on the ground near the drum. Never, never, while life and memory last, shall I ever forget those features turned toward heaven.”

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The impact of the Battle of Antietam on the civilian population of Sharpsburg and its surrounding environs lasted, literally, for decades after the guns fell silent. Below are just a few examples of how the battle effected the local population:

\*Daniel Miller, an 84 year old farmer who owned land on the battlefield, died two months after the battle of chronic diarrhea. His brother wrote that the death was caused by the

battle and by the thousands of sick and wounded soldiers in the area. He wrote: “Many other citizens and hundreds of soldiers have been taken with [scarlet fever], and many died, it is an army disease, thus adds an addition to the horrors of war.”

\*The Mumma family’s home, barn, and outbuildings were all destroyed during the Battle of Antietam. They sought compensation for their loss from the U.S. government but were denied since Confederate troops were responsible for the destruction.

\*The Philip Pry house was used as Union army headquarters before, during, and even shortly after the battle. Such was the damage done to his property, the Pry family moved west in 1872.

\*The Roulette family, whose home and farmstead was located near the Sunken Road, also suffered damages during the battle. He inventoried his losses and sent a request for compensation to the U.S. government:

|                                                           |   |   |   |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| <i>6 Gallons Blackberry Wine at \$2 per gallon.</i>       | . | . | . | \$12.00  |
| <i>Roads through fields and trampling ploughed fields</i> |   |   |   |          |
| <i>so that they must be ploughed over</i>                 | . | . | . | \$100.00 |
| <i>Burial Ground for Seven Hundred Soldiers</i>           | . | . | . | \$750.00 |
| <i>300 lbs. lard at 10 cents per lb.</i>                  | . | . | . | \$30.00  |
| <i>200 lbs. sugar at 12 ½ cents per lb.</i>               | . | . | . | \$25.00  |
| <i>5 sacks salt at \$2 per sack</i>                       | . | . | . | \$10.00  |
| <i>350 Chickens at 15 cents apiece</i>                    | . | . | . | \$52.50  |
| <i>25 ducks at 25 cents apiece</i>                        | . | . | . | \$6.25   |
| <i>8 turkeys at 50 cents apiece</i>                       | . | . | . | \$4.00   |
| <i>One beehive with bees.</i>                             | . | . | . | \$8.00   |
| <i>4 apple trees destroyed by army</i>                    | . | . | . | \$2.00   |
| <i>1 pair saddle bags</i>                                 | . | . | . | \$2.00   |
| <i>1 watch</i>                                            | . | . | . | \$10.00  |
| <i>1 overcoat</i>                                         | . | . | . | \$15.00  |
| <i>1 lot carpenter tools</i>                              | . | . | . | \$10.00  |
| <i>75 pounds iron taken from blacksmith shop</i>          | . | . | . | \$4.50   |

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