

# The Artios Home Companion Series

## Unit 4: The Civil War, Part Two – 1860s

### Teacher Overview

The advantage in the Civil War went back and forth between North and South until the Battle of Gettysburg which was the deciding battle of the war. After that battle, it was only a matter of time until the South fell and the North emerged from the war triumphant.



Montage of the American Civil War

### Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete three lessons in which they will learn about **the rise of General Lee, the fall of McClellan, the Civil War in 1863, and the Civil War in 1864**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define vocabulary words.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

## Leading Ideas

### **Honesty is a character quality to be desired.**

*The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please Him.*  
— Proverbs 20:23

### **The Bible provides the ethics upon which to judge people and nations.**

— Exodus 20:1-17

### **God is sovereign over the affairs of men.**

*From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.*  
— Acts 17:26

## Key People, Places, and Events

General Thomas J. Jackson (Stonewall Jackson)  
General James Longstreet  
General Hooker (Fighting Joe Hooker)  
Battle of Fredericksburg  
The Emancipation Proclamation  
General William T. Sherman  
General George Henry Thomas  
General William Rosecrans  
*Merrimack*  
Battle of Chancellorsville  
Sherman's Campaign to the Sea  
Battle of the Wilderness

General McClellan  
Second Battle of Bull Run  
Battle of Antietam  
General Burnside  
General Ulysses S. Grant  
General Sheridan  
Battle of Chickamauga  
Battle of the Ironclads  
*Monitor*  
General George G. Meade  
Captain Farragut  
Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse

## Vocabulary

**Lesson 1:**  
impregnable  
recommence  
sanguinary  
wrested

**Lesson 2:**  
demoralize  
vantage

**Lesson 3:**  
conferred  
forage

# Lesson One

## History Overview and Assignments The Rise of General Lee and the Fall of McClellan

The situation at the close of the second year of the war was to the advantage of the Union cause in the West, while in the East the opposing armies still held each other at bay—neither having gained the advantage. The Emancipation Proclamation met with favor in the North and commanded the respect of the civilized nations of the world.



Monument of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, VA

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Rise of General Lee and the Fall of McClellan*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Explore the following website:
  - Go to this website to see animated illustrations of Civil War battles  
Civil War animated  
[www.civilwaranimated.com](http://www.civilwaranimated.com)
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

### Key People, Places, and Events

General Thomas J. Jackson (Stonewall Jackson)  
General James Longstreet  
General Hooker (Fighting Joe Hooker)  
Battle of Fredericksburg  
The Emancipation Proclamation

General George McClellan  
Second Battle of Bull Run  
Battle of Antietam  
General Burnside

### Vocabulary

impregnable

recommence

sanguinary

wrested

## Discussion Questions

1. How did General Thomas Jackson earn his nickname of “Stonewall”?
2. How did General McClellan continue to fail in his duties?
3. Why was General McClellan removed from his post as commander of the Union army?
4. Up until the Battle of Antietam, the war had been a war for what cause?
5. After the Battle of Antietam, what statement did Lincoln issue that was really a “measure of war?”
6. The Emancipation was a warning to the South and gave them a deadline to do what?
7. If the South did not heed the warning contained with the Emancipation Proclamation, what did Lincoln say would be the consequences?
8. What were the four objectives in the Union’s plan of operations for 1863?
9. Why was the fall of Vicksburg significant?
10. Thought question: In what kinds of ways has the evil of slavery harmed the U.S. from colonial times to the present day?

*Adapted for High School from the book:*

### *History of the United States*

*by William M. Davidson*

#### *The Rise of General Lee and the Fall of McClellan,*

#### **Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley: Washington Threatened**

The unwelcome news arrived at the national capital that General Thomas J. Jackson was moving down the Shenandoah Valley, sweeping everything before him and threatening Washington. At the battle of Bull Run, Jackson, on account of his firm stand, had won the nickname “Stonewall.” Lincoln, recognizing in him a general of great ability, had good cause to be alarmed at the turn affairs had taken and at once ordered McDowell north to the defense of the national capital. He then directed General Nathaniel P. Banks at Harper’s Ferry and General John C. Fremont at Franklin to move to the Shenandoah Valley and capture the raiding general. But that dashing leader, having accomplished the purpose for which he had been sent north—

to threaten Washington and thereby force the return of McDowell’s army to the North—saw it was high time that he rejoin his chief at Richmond. He accordingly turned southward, and, by a series of brilliantly and rapidly executed movements, out-generaled Fremont, Banks, and several other Union commanders, and carried his entire force down by rail to join Lee in his contest with McClellan.

#### **The “Seven Days’ Fight” Before Richmond – June 26 to July 1**

McClellan, disappointed at not receiving reinforcements under McDowell and fearful lest he could not protect his supplies on the York River, resolved on changing his base to the James River, an undertaking which required the greatest skill in its accomplishment. It was necessary for his army to shield and defend a train of 5,000



wagons loaded with provisions, 25,000 head of cattle, and large quantities of reserve artillery and munitions of war.

Lee, unaware of McClellan's intention, fell upon the Union right at Mechanicsville on June 26, thereby precipitating the series of battles known as the "Seven Days' Fight" before Richmond. Jackson failed to arrive on the 26<sup>th</sup>, thus causing Lee's failure at Mechanicsville. However, on the following day, Jackson's troops came rolling into the station at Richmond, elated with their northern victories, and Jackson hastened to join his chief on June 27 on the battlefield of Gaines's Mill, where Lee had attacked General Fitzhugh Porter. Porter maintained an unequal contest with this combined Confederate army through all the day but was finally forced from the field.

On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Porter burned his bridges behind him and hastened forward to cover the retreat of McClellan's army. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, a battle was fought at Savage's Station, in which the Confederates were repulsed, and on the 20<sup>th</sup> another at White Oak Swamp. There the Union army repeatedly drove back the Confederate advance and remained in possession of the field until nightfall, when it retired. On the same day was fought the fierce battle of Frazier's Farm. On the following day, July 1, McClellan made his final stand at Malvern Hill. His position was here impregnable. Lee, however, unwilling to give up the contest, gave battle at Malvern, but his ill-advised attack resulted only in the useless destruction of life. Lee, foiled and disappointed, finally gave up the battle and on the night of July 1, 1862, under cover of a storm, McClellan retired to Harrison's Landing on the James River.

## **The Effect of McClellan's Failure to Capture Richmond**

The retreat from the York to the James was said by McClellan's friends to have been conducted most skillfully, but this did not appease the North. The country had little use for a general who was great only in flight. The campaign which had begun with such high hopes to the country was condemned as an inexcusable failure and the army of the Potomac and its now much abused leader were soon recalled to the North. The gloom which fell upon the North at this time was as great as that which had followed the disaster at Bull Run. The loyal governors recommenced recruiting, and President Lincoln, on the very day McClellan had accomplished his change of base (July 1), issued a call for 300,000 volunteers. "We are coming, Father Abraham, 300,000 strong," was the refrain which went up from every recruiting station throughout the length and breadth of the loyal states.

## **The Army of Virginia Created**

In the state of Virginia were three separate and distinct military departments over which McClellan, who commanded the army of the Potomac, had no control—that of the Rappahannock under General McDowell, that of the Shenandoah under General Banks, and that of the western part of the state under General Fremont. Following the raid of Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley, these three departments were united and became the army of Virginia, with General John Pope as its commanding officer. Following the unsuccessful peninsular campaign, the country now looked to Pope to retrieve McClellan's failure.

## **Pope's Campaign and the "Second Bull Run"**

Pope posted his army at the eastern base of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the upper valley of the Rappahannock so that he could protect the Shenandoah Valley, hold the Rappahannock River from its source to its mouth, and be within safe distance of Washington, should his presence be needed there.

Shortly after the "Seven Days' Fight," Lee had sent Stonewall Jackson north on another of his daring raids, and a little later General James Longstreet was sent to join Jackson in defeating Pope before McClellan could come to his assistance. On August 29 the second battle of Bull Run followed. On that day the issue was about equal on both sides, but on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Longstreet having arrived, the battle ended disastrously to the Union army. On September 2, the army of Virginia was merged into the army of Potomac, with McClellan again the chief general in the field under Halleck. Pope was transferred to a western command.

### **LEE CROSSES THE POTOMAC – ALARM AT THE NORTH**

#### **Invasion of Maryland**

Bull Run was hardly won before Lee, with an army of 60,000 men, crossed the Potomac at Leesburg and began the invasion of Maryland. McClellan at once gave chase with the army of the Potomac, numbering more than 80,000 men. Lee now passed westward through the gaps of South Mountain, hoping to reach Pennsylvania by the little mountain valley west of that range of the Blue Ridge. McClellan by this time was close upon Lee's heels, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> was brought to bay on

Antietam Creek—a little stream entering into the Potomac a short distance above Harper's Ferry.

#### **Battle of Antietam – September 17**

On the early dawn of the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, General Hooker—"fighting Joe Hooker," as his troops called him—opened the engagement on the Union side. The battle which followed was one of the most sanguinary (bloody) of the entire war, McClellan losing one-sixth of his army and Lee one-fourth of the men who had crossed the Potomac with him two weeks before. Only night put an end to the fearful carnage, and both armies ceased their fighting, content to let the other rest.

While the Union army was badly shaken, Lee's army was so shattered and crippled that it needed but a vigorous attack on the morrow—such as Grant waged at Shiloh—to end the struggle. But McClellan waited for reinforcements all through that day. On the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, he prepared to renew the battle but was too late—Lee under cover of night had escaped with his now sullen and discouraged army across the Potomac into Virginia. McClellan made no effort to pursue Lee. President Lincoln finally lost all patience with McClellan and removed him from his command of the army of the Potomac, placing in his stead the amiable Ambrose E. Burnside.

#### **Battle of Fredericksburg – December 13**

Having gathered an army of more than 100,000 men, Burnside moved down the Rappahannock and took a position on the north side of that stream across from Fredericksburg. That city refused to

surrender, and on the following day Lee's army arrived and entrenched itself on the heights surrounding the city. Burnside, impatient to attack, crossed the stream on pontoon bridges on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of December and on the 13<sup>th</sup> gave battle. At the foot of the height immediately behind Fredericksburg was a sunken road, and on its lower side an old stone wall behind which was massed, four ranks deep, a Confederate force. Up the slope leading to this breastwork the Union troops swept time after time to within but a few yards of the wall, but they were met each time by a sheet of flame, piling the dead and wounded in heaps upon the field. That same daring and bravery which had characterized the Union troops at Antietam were repeated over and over, but all to no purpose—Fredericksburg was another field of carnage, and this time the victory rested with the army of the South. Burnside soon retired as chief of the army of the Potomac, General Hooker succeeding to the command.

## THE WAR NOW FOR THE UNION AND AGAINST SLAVERY

### **Lincoln Proclaims Freedom to the Slaves September 22, 1862 and January 1, 1863**

The war up to Antietam had been a war for the preservation of the Union and not for the abolition of slavery. Although the antislavery advocates of the North had kept the slavery question constantly before the public, President Lincoln refused to be hurried in such an important matter, until, in his judgment, the time should be ripe to take the step as “a measure of war.” After the victory at Antietam, he felt that the time had

come to strike the South a blow, and to allow the moral sentiment of the nation to assert itself. Accordingly, five days after the victory of Antietam, he issued his first Emancipation Proclamation (on September 22), which served notice on the seceded states that unless they had laid down their arms and acknowledged their allegiance to the Union by New Year's Day of January, 1863, he should formally declare all slaves within their borders free. The South, confident of victory, laughed his proclamation to scorn, but the blow nevertheless fell full upon that section—the Confederacy was now placed before the civilized world in its true light, as the champion of the detested institution of slavery. True to his warning, Lincoln issued his final proclamation on the first day of January, 1863, and thereby destroyed the last hope of the South for foreign intervention. It now became a war, not only for the Union, but against slavery, and along that line the issue was to be fought to a close.

### **The Close of the Year**

The situation at the close of the second year of the war was to the advantage of the Union cause in the West, while in the East the opposing armies still held each other at bay—neither having gained the advantage. The Emancipation Proclamation met with favor in the North and commanded the respect of the civilized nations of the world. Lincoln followed his September Emancipation Proclamation by another call on October 17 for 300,000 volunteers, which met with a generous response at the North. Halleck was still the general-in-chief of the Union armies. Hooker was now to succeed Burnside as the commander of the army of the Potomac and try his skill at war with Lee. The Union armies of the West

united in two departments, with Rosecrans in the center at the head of the army of the Cumberland, and Grant on the Mississippi, at the head of the army of the Mississippi and the Tennessee.

### **Plan of Operations for the Year 1863**

The plan of operations in 1863 was to prosecute the war along the same lines which the army and navy had been fighting in the previous year: (1) The blockade, already effective, was to be made more so by constructing and putting into service many ironclad ships; (2) the army of the West under Grant was to complete the opening of the Mississippi River, thereby completely severing the Confederacy; (3) the army of the center under Rosecrans was to take Chattanooga and from there push through to some point on the Gulf or Atlantic coast; (4) the army of the Potomac, now under Hooker, was to destroy Lee's army and capture Richmond.

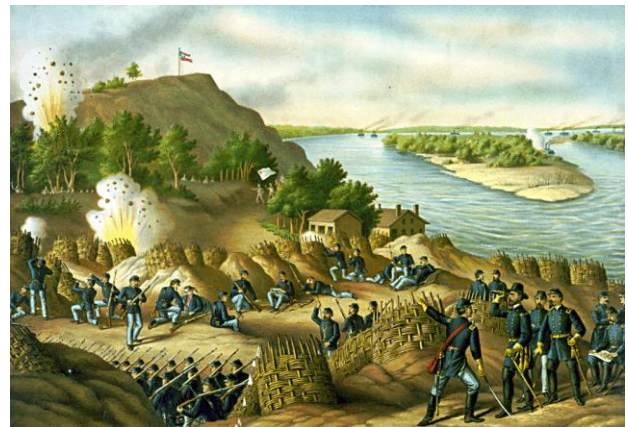
## **IN THE WEST – GRANT AND VICKSBURG**

### **Campaign against Vicksburg**

The Confederates still held the Mississippi River from Vicksburg to Port Hudson, and this must now be wrested from them, for Vicksburg was the key to the Mississippi River. In the autumn of 1862, Grant directed Sherman to descend the river from Memphis with a fleet under Porter and capture the city, while he himself moved south into Mississippi, intending to keep Pemberton, commander of the Confederate forces in that state, engaged as far from Vicksburg as possible. A Confederate force under General Van Dorn, however, captured Holly Springs, Grant's

depot of supplies, thereby cutting off the Union line of communication with the North and defeating Grant's plan.

Sherman, not informed of this misfortune, moved down the Mississippi, landed on the Yazoo River, and made an unsuccessful attack upon the fortifications some miles above Vicksburg. This effort failing, Grant resolved on a second plan and in January, 1863, massed the Union troops on the west bank of the Mississippi, opposite Vicksburg. Deciding that the only successful plan would be to attack the city from the South, Grant determined to run the batteries at Vicksburg, and on the night of April 16 a fleet under Porter performed this dangerous and daring feat, with the loss of but one of Porter's boats. The army marched south on the west bank of the river, crossed it, and on the 29th of April, landed at a point about twenty miles south of Vicksburg. Port Gibson was captured on May 1, and an engagement won at Raymond on May 12.



*Siege of Vicksburg, by Kurz and Allison*

Grant then advanced on Jackson, the state capital of Mississippi, where all railroads communicating with Vicksburg connected. General Joseph E. Johnston gave battle at that point, but after a severe engagement the Confederates fled and the



Union troops entered the city. Grant now turned westward toward Vicksburg, thus separating the forces of Johnston and Pemberton. Grant defeated Pemberton in a hard fought battle at Champion Hill on May 16, and on the following day routed him at Big Black River. Pemberton now retired to the entrenchments at Vicksburg, caught like a mouse in a trap.

Grant stationed his batteries ready for action and sent word to Porter to open fire on the riverfront. As the first shot rang out from the fleet, Grant ordered an assault, but the gallant charge was repulsed with great loss. Hereupon Grant gave up all thought of storming the strong fortification and settled down to a siege which lasted for forty-three days. By the 3d of July Pemberton was starved out and raised the white flag above

his works. On the following day Vicksburg fell, Pemberton surrendering 31,600 men as prisoners of war.

### Effect of the Fall of Vicksburg

A few days later, Port Hudson surrendered and the work of Grant in the Mississippi Valley was accomplished—the great river was no longer open from its source to its mouth, and the Confederacy was cut in twain. One of the chief plans of the war had thus been accomplished. The success of the Union armies in the West was due to the skill and persistent efforts of one great man, General Ulysses S. Grant, who was now given the rank of major-general in the Union army. The fall of Vicksburg ended his service in the Mississippi Valley.

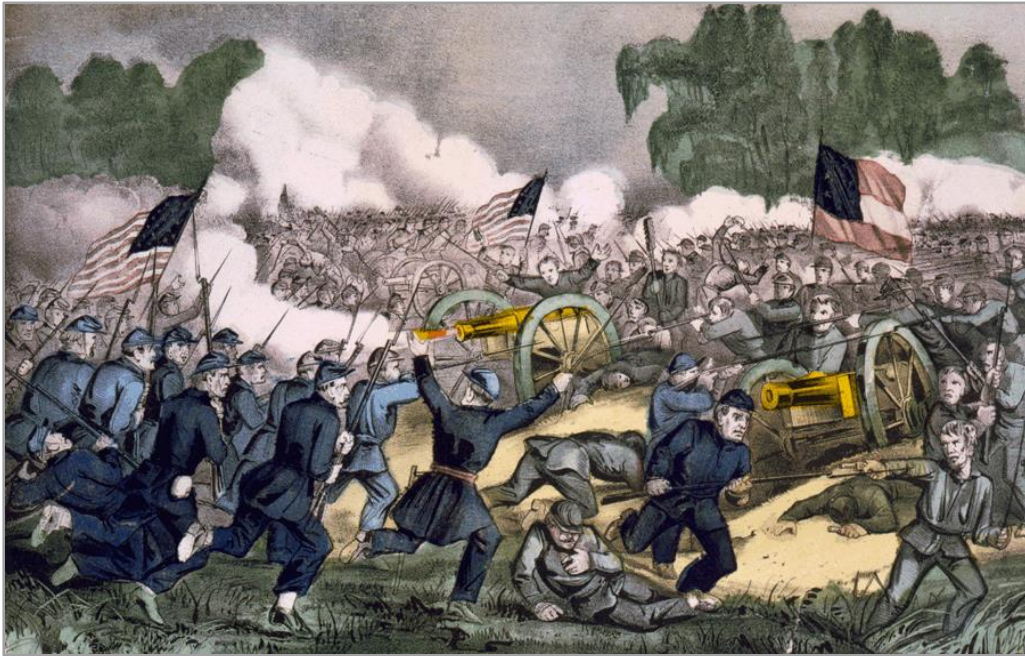
NAME OF BATTLE	Place Where Fought	Date	Commanding General of Union Army	Commanding General of Confederate Army
Mill Springs ..	Mill Springs, Ky.	Jan. 19 ....	Brig.-Gen. G. H. Thomas	Maj.-Gen. G. B. Crittenden
Fort Donelson	Ft. Donelson, Tenn.	Feb. 16 ....	Brig.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Brig.-Gens. G. J. Pillow, J. B. Floyd and S. B. Buckner
Pea Ridge.....	Pea Ridge, Ark.	March 7-8 ..	Brig.-Gen. S. R. Curtis	Maj.-Gen. E. VanDorn
Merrimac and Monitor	Hampton Roads, Va.	March 9 ....	Lieut. J. L. Worden	Flag-Officer F. Buchanan
Shiloh.....	Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.	April 6-7...	Brig.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Gen. A. S. Johnston
Island No. 10.	Island No. 10, Tenn.	April 7 ....	Maj.-Gen. J. Pope	Maj.-Gens. J. P. McCown and W. W. Mackall
New Orleans.	New Orleans, La.	April 25 ....	Flag-Officer D. G. Farragut	Com. J. K. Mitchell
Fair Oaks ....	Fair Oaks, Va.	May 31-June 1	Maj.-Gen. B. F. Butler	Maj.-Gen. M. Lovell
Seven Days' Battles (Va.)	Mechanicsville Savage's Station WhiteOak Swamp Fraizer's Farm Malvern Hill	June 26-July 1	Maj.-Gen. McClellan	Gen. J. E. Johnston Gen. R. E. Lee
Baton Rouge .	Baton Rouge, La.	Aug. 5 ....	Brig.-Gen. T. Williams	Maj.-Gen. J. C. Breckinridge
Bull Run (Second)	Bull Run, Va.	Aug. 29-30	Maj.-Gen. J. Pope	Gen. R. E. Lee
Antietam.....	Antietam Creek, Md.	Sept. 17 ....	Maj.-Gen. McClellan	Gen. R. E. Lee
Iuka .....	Iuka, Miss.	Sept. 19 ....	Maj.-Gen. W. S. Rosecrans	Maj.-Gen. S. Price
Corinth .....	Corinth, Miss.	Oct. 4 ....	Maj.-Gen. W. S. Rosecrans	Maj.-Gen. E. VanDorn
Perryville ....	Perryville, Ky.	Oct. 8 ....	Maj.-Gen. D. C. Buell	Gen. B. Bragg
Fredericksburg	Fredericksburg, Va.	Dec. 13 ....	Maj.-Gen. A. E. Burnside	Gen. R. E. Lee
First Vicksburg	Chickasaw Bayou, Miss.	Dec. 28 ....	Maj.-Gen. W. T. Sherman	Lieut.-Gen. J. C. Pemberton
Murfreesboro.	Stone's River, Tenn.	Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 1863	Maj.-Gen. W. S. Rosecrans	Gen. B. Bragg

Important battles of 1862

## Lesson Two

### History Overview and Assignments The Civil War: 1863

The situation at the close of the year 1863 was grave. Gettysburg was the turning point of the war and yet was the site of a savage battle. At the very moment Pickett's men were meeting their bloody repulse on the slope of Cemetery Ridge, Pemberton was flying the white flag above his fortification at Vicksburg. On July 5 Lee gathered together his now shattered and crippled army and retreated down the passes of the Blue Ridge through the Shenandoah Valley, to his old camping ground in Virginia.



The Battle of Chickamauga

### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *The Civil War: 1863*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- On a map containing Georgia and Tennessee, track the Battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.
- On a map of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and surrounding area find the locations described in today's article including Cemetery Ridge, Round Top, Little Round Top, and Culp's Hill.
- Visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.

## Vocabulary

demoralize

vantage

## Key People, Places, and Events

General Ulysses S. Grant

General William T. Sherman

General Sheridan

General George Henry Thomas

Battle of Chickamauga

General William Rosecrans

Battle of the Ironclads

*Merrimack*

*Monitor*

General Hooker

General Stonewall Jackson

Battle of Chancellorsville

General George G. Meade

## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.
2. What was the significance of the Battle of the Ironclads?
3. What was the effect of the Battle of Chancellorsville?
4. Why did General Meade resign from the army?
5. Describe the three days of fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg.
6. Describe the status of the war at the close of 1863.

*Adapted for High School from the book:*

### *History of the United States*

by William M. Davidson

### *The Civil War: 1863*

#### IN THE CENTER: WITH ROSECRANS, THOMAS AND GRANT

#### **Rosecrans Enters Chattanooga**

All during the winter and spring following Murfreesboro, Rosecrans's army lay encamped on the field so bravely won, while Bragg's southern army still camped in Tennessee. Finally, on June 24 Rosecrans began the forward movement which later led to that brilliant campaign in the center of which were engaged the four great generals—Grant (the hero of the victories in Mississippi), Sherman (who had so ably assisted in these victories), Sheridan (the brilliant cavalry officer), and Thomas

(whose unflinching courage and endurance soon made him one of the chief commanders in the army of the center).

By September, Rosecrans "had skillfully maneuvered Bragg south of the Tennessee River, and through and beyond Chattanooga," and had himself taken possession of that city.

#### **Battle of Chickamauga – September 19-20**

When Bragg passed through the gaps of Missionary Ridge in his flight from Chattanooga, Rosecrans pushed on to overtake him; but, learning that the Confederate army was concentrating in northwestern Georgia, Rosecrans gave up



the chase. Bragg was reinforced and now took the initiative.

On September 18, the two armies faced each other in order of battle along the banks of Chickamauga Creek, a few miles southeast of Chattanooga. Here on September 19 and 20 one of the bloodiest battles of the war was fought. All day long the Union army resisted the fierce attacks of the southern columns—charges and counter-charges were made—and by nightfall of the 19th, the Confederates had failed to gain the road to Chattanooga, but they held many of their positions and were ready to renew the battle the next day.

The battle opened on the 20th with an attack upon the Union left. Five Union brigades were swept from the field, and others were caught in the mad rush toward Chattanooga. On swept the Confederate troops, until they faced the new Union line on the wooded crest of Snodgrass Hill. Here from three o'clock in the afternoon until night put an end to the struggle, the indomitable Thomas held his ground, attacked on flank and front. Up the slope of the hill charged the Confederates, giving the southern yell—only to be mowed down with frightful slaughter. Again and again they charged, but Thomas, christened on that day as “The Rock of Chickamauga,” stood his ground and at night withdrew toward Chattanooga. Seldom has history recorded a more gallant defense than that made by Thomas and his brave troops at Chickamauga.

### **After the Battle of Chickamauga**

Bragg at once proceeded to shut up the Union army in Chattanooga. This city lies on the south bank of the Tennessee River at

the northern end of the narrow valley through which runs Chattanooga Creek. The valley is bounded on the east by Missionary Ridge and on the west by Lookout Mountain, rising abruptly from the river, which flows south from the city and at the foot of this mountain makes a sharp turn to the North again. Bragg's troops were stationed along the crest and slope of Missionary Ridge for some miles to the south, thence west across Chattanooga Valley to Lookout Mountain, which they held and fortified. Confederate pickets along the river guarded the road over which supplies could most easily be brought to the city. All railroad communication had been cut off and the Union men were on half rations.

### **Grant Assumes Command**

But all was soon to change. General Rosecrans was removed and General George Henry Thomas put in his place. Grant was summoned to Chattanooga to take command of the department of the Mississippi. Sherman and many of the troops from Vicksburg were hastening to the relief, and General Hooker had been sent with troops from the army of the Potomac. Grant's first care upon his arrival was to bridge the Tennessee River and bring in an abundant supply of food and ammunition. Burnside was hastening southward through eastern Tennessee, and Bragg made his fatal mistake of sending 20,000 troops under the able corps commander, Longstreet, to Knoxville to capture Burnside. Reinforcements having arrived, Grant decided to attack. With the booming of cannon on the afternoon of October 23, Thomas's troops made a



dashing charge on the Confederate fortifications in the valley, and the Union line was advanced about a mile.



*Battle of Lookout Mountain,*  
1889 lithograph by Kurz and Allison.

### **Battle of Lookout Mountain – November 24**

In the early morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>, General Hooker advanced to drive the Confederates from their position on Lookout Mountain. The pickets were taken and the gallant Hooker—while a heavy mist enveloped the mountain—led his troops up the steep and wooded western slopes. Only the incessant rattle of musketry told Grant at his position on Orchard Knob that the battle—this famous “Battle above the Clouds”—was raging. The Confederates evacuated during the night, and the morning’s sun greeted the flag of the Union on the crest of Lookout Mountain. Sherman, under cover of mist, had gained the north base of Missionary Ridge, and the Confederate attack was not able to dislodge him.

### **Battle of Missionary Ridge – November 25**

On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> Bragg’s forces were massed on Missionary Ridge, with a strongly entrenched line on the crest,

another midway up the slope, and a third at the base. General Grant had planned for Hooker to attack the Confederate left while Sherman pressed on from his position on the right. But the southern army, retreating across the valley from Lookout Mountain, had burned the bridges across the creek and it was late in the afternoon before Hooker could reach the ridge. Sherman attacked early in the morning and by three o’clock was so hard pressed that Grant gave the signal for an attack by Thomas’s brave troops. Advancing at double quick, Thomas’s men carried the rifle pits, and Union and Confederate troops went over the first line of defenses almost at the same time. There was no halting, no waiting for further orders, no re-forming of lines, but up the steep slope, covered with fallen timbers and boulder, Thomas’s troops advanced. The second line of works was carried, and on they swept to the crest. The crest was gained and the cannon turned upon the retreating, panic-stricken Confederate troops, thousands of whom threw away their arms in their mad flight, and many were taken prisoner. By night Bragg’s demoralized army was in full retreat and Grant had opened another gateway to the South.

### **Burnside at Knoxville**

Meanwhile, Burnside had taken possession of Knoxville and Longstreet had made an unsuccessful attack upon the town. When the news reached him of Bragg’s disaster, Longstreet immediately abandoned the siege and on the night of December 4 hastened northward to rejoin Lee. Eastern Tennessee was saved, and the president’s anxiety for the loyal people of this state was removed.

**The Ironclads Fail at Charleston**

**Battle of Charleston Harbor – April 7**

After the victory of the *Monitor* at Hampton Roads, it was believed in the North that a fleet of monitors would be able to accomplish the reduction of all Confederate fortifications along the entire Atlantic and Gulf coast. Such a fleet was accordingly constructed, and, on April 7, 1863, Admiral DuPont steamed into Charleston harbor, South Carolina, for the purpose of capturing Charleston—one of the most important coast points still in the possession of the Confederacy. The action opened at three o'clock in the afternoon, and the fleet was soon under the fire of seventy-six of the best guns in possession of the Confederacy—all of them well mounted and skillfully handled. When the fleet withdrew, every vessel had been fearfully battered, and some of the boats completely disabled. The news of the defeat of these ironclads could hardly be believed in the North, and the greatest disappointment followed, while a new impetus was given to blockade running in the South.

**Battle of Chancellorsville –  
May 2 and 3**

After Fredericksburg, the army of the Potomac remained inactive across the Rappahannock from the point where Burnside had met his bloody repulse. General Hooker had succeeded Burnside in January and by the last of April was ready to take the field. With more than 100,000 men at his command he felt sure of his ability to crush the Confederate army. He accordingly moved up the Rappahannock, crossed that stream with about 60,000 troops, and by

the first of May had his army in position at Chancellorsville, ten miles from Fredericksburg.



*Battle of Chancellorsville by Kurz and Allison*

Jackson at once, executing his favorite movement, marched around Hooker's army and attacked it in the rear so unexpectedly that an entire division was rolled back upon the main body of the army, which the impetuous charge of Jackson now threatened with disaster. Hooker had been completely surprised; only night saved the Union army from utter rout. Lee, on the following day, fought the Union army in detail, defeating it one division at a time, though he met with stubborn resistance. At night Hooker gave up the useless and bloody struggle, and on the following day withdrew under cover of a storm to his old position across the Rappahannock, to suffer censure and blame for his management.

**Effect of Chancellorsville**

Again the North was filled with gloom. Two years and more of war had passed, marked by a long list of disasters in the East. The soldiers in the army of the Potomac were just as brave and fought as valiantly as did Lee's and Jackson's men. Indeed, no braver soldiers ever lived. "Why is it," the public press now asked, the people asked, and Lincoln asked, "that a leader cannot be

*found to lead this splendid northern army successfully against the southern foe?"* Bitter were the complaints in Congress and in the country. Yet, amidst all this disappointment and this night of gloom, a lofty patriotism sustained the North, which still hoped on, confident that right would win, that the Union would survive, and, now that the great Lincoln had spoken out on New Year's Day for human freedom, that slavery and disunion would perish together. The tide of war was soon to turn, though anxious days were still in store—indeed, had come—for Lee, emboldened by Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, once more flew northward, spurred on by the cry now ringing forth from southern camps of, *"On to Washington."*

### **Lee's Second Invasion of the North**

Lee broke camp in the early part of June and started on his second invasion of the North. His plan was to pass northward, east of the range of the Blue Ridge, cross into Maryland, and carry his troops forward to the fertile valleys in Pennsylvania, where he expected to find rich plunder and much-needed supplies—it being the harvest time.

He hoped to draw after him Hooker's entire army, defeat it on the free soil of the North, and then march on Baltimore—perhaps the national capital itself. No sooner had Lee crossed the mountains than Hooker gave chase. Lee, crossing the Potomac at Williamsport and Shepherdstown, passed through Maryland and was soon encamped at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He sent detachments out to capture Carlisle and extort \$100,000 tribute from the city of York. His cavalry in the meantime—10,000 strong—charged

across the country, laying it waste in every direction.

### **Meade Succeeds Hooker in Command**

Hooker had all the while been conducting a most admirable advance. But after his defeat at Chancellorsville, he had become so embittered against General-in-Chief Halleck that he complained to Lincoln of that general's unkind treatment. Irritated by Halleck, he resigned his command in the face of the enemy and retired from the army of the Potomac forever. General George G. Meade was promptly appointed in his stead. He at once assumed command and pushed rapidly forward in the quest of Lee.

## **GETTYSBURG**

### **The First Day's Battle of Gettysburg – July 1**

The advance forces of the two armies met unexpectedly on the morning of July 1, in the vicinity of the little village of Gettysburg, and a hard fought battle ensued. In this battle General John F. Reynolds lost his life, and the Union troops were forced to withdraw south of the city to Cemetery Ridge, a hook-shaped hill about three miles in length. At its southern extremity is Round Top, a mound about four hundred feet high commanding the valley to the west. A little to the north of this, on the crest of the hill, is Little Round Top, also commanding the valley to the west. From this point the ridge runs northward toward the town then turns to the east, completing the hook and terminating abruptly in Culp's Hill, which commands the valley to the north and east.

It was to this ridge that Reynolds's



troops had retired after the death of that officer. General Hancock soon arrived upon the field and recognized the importance of holding Cemetery Ridge as a vantage position to the Union army. During the night, Meade's hosts were pushed rapidly forward to this position, and when day broke on July 2, the morning sun shone upon the Union army entrenched on Cemetery Ridge, 80,000 strong, eager and ready for battle. Across the valley to the west was Seminary Ridge, upon which Lee had gathered his forces during the night—also about 80,000 strong and as eager for the contest as was the army of the Potomac.

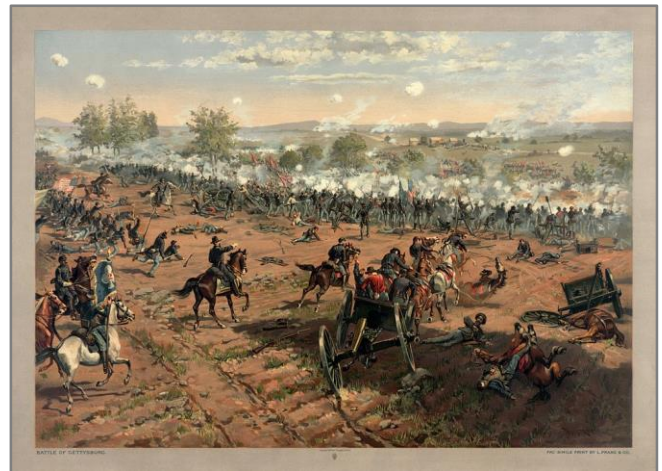
### **The Second Day's Battle: Little Round Top – July 2**

Little Round Top was the key to the Union position, and this Lee resolved to take by assault. At four o'clock in the afternoon of July 2, a Confederate force advanced up the hill under the enthusiasm of the southern yell and furiously fell upon General Sickles' men, and a two hours' bloody battle ensued. While this battle was on, a Confederate force swept up the hill to Little Round Top. A hand-to-hand encounter followed in which prodigies of valor were displayed on both sides, the Confederate force finally yielding and retreating down the slope, leaving their dead and wounded scattered upon the field. At ten o'clock at night, the second day's battle ceased and the soldiers slept upon their arms.

### **The Third Day's Battle: Pickett's Charge – July 3**

The struggle was reopened at noon on July 3 by an artillery battle. At the end of two hours, the Confederate batteries

suddenly ceased firing. A moment of ominous stillness fell upon both armies. When the smoke lifted, a large Confederate force under Pickett, one of Lee's ablest generals, was seen advancing across the valley in battle array. Lee had planned to carry the Union position at the point of the bayonet! On came Pickett's men, charging up the slope of Cemetery Ridge, exciting the admiration of the Union army all along the battle line. The Union artillery hailed shot and shell upon this advancing host. Men were literally moved down in windrows, but their places quickly filled. Up, up came Pickett's men to the very muzzles of the Union guns! There they were hurled back and rushed madly, wildly, down the slope, their lines broken and shattered, and now in utter rout. The invincible army of the South had been broken like a reed. Meade had won the day at Gettysburg!



*Thure de Thulstrup's Battle of Gettysburg, showing Pickett's Charge.*

### **Situation at the Close of the Year 1863**

Gettysburg was the turning point of the war. At the very moment Pickett's men were meeting their bloody repulse on the slope of Cemetery Ridge, Pemberton was flying the white flag above his fortification at



Vicksburg. On July 5 Lee gathered together his now shattered and crippled army and retreated down the passes of the Blue Ridge through the Shenandoah Valley, to his old camping ground in Virginia, across the Rappahannock. Meade gave chase, but slowly. In a few weeks he, too, arrived on the soil of Virginia and encamped across the river from Lee's position. Here the two armies remained, watching one another, cautiously seeking an opportunity to strike.

Efforts failing, both armies went into winter quarters and remained practically inactive until the following spring. Thus, at the close of the year, Lee's invasion had been repelled, the Mississippi was opened and patrolled by Union gunboats, the blockade of the southern ports was more effective than ever, and the strong position of Chattanooga was securely held by the Union army.

NAME OF BATTLE	Place Where Fought	Date	Commanding General of Union Army	Commanding General of Confederate Army
Chancellorsville	Chancellorsville, Va.	May 2-3 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. J. Hooker	Gen. R. E. Lee
Gettysburg . . . . .	Gettysburg, Pa.	July 1-3 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. G. G. Meade	Gen. R. E. Lee
Vicksburg . . . . .	Vicksburg, Miss.	July 4 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Lieut.-Gen. J. C. Pemberton
Port Hudson . . . . .	Port Hudson, La.	July 8 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. N. P. Banks	Maj.-Gen. F. Gardner
Chickamauga . . . . .	Chickamauga, Ga.	Sept. 19-20 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. W. S. Rosecrans	Gen. B. Bragg
Chattanooga . . . . .	Chattanooga, Tenn.	Nov. 23-25 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Gen. B. Bragg
Knoxville . . . . .	Knoxville, Tenn.	Dec. 4 . . . . .	Maj.-Gen. A. E. Burnside	Lieut.-Gen. J. Longstreet

Important battles of 1863

## Lesson Three

### History Overview and Assignments The Civil War, 1864

The situation at the close of the year 1864 showed that the Confederacy was fast going to pieces. Grant still kept up his siege at Petersburg, drawing the line tighter and tighter. Sheridan had destroyed Early's army and laid waste the valley of the Shenandoah. Thomas had broken Hood's army at Nashville. Sherman was encamped at Savannah after having cut the Confederacy in twain a second time. The Confederacy, now twice severed, with all communication with the outside world cut off, was practically starving to death. The end of the great rebellion was near at hand.

#### Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article:  
*The Civil War, 1864.*

- Narrate about today’s reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary words in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Find a copy of the poem “Sheridan’s Ride” by Thomas Buchanan Read.
- Be sure to visit [www.ArtiosHCS.com](http://www.ArtiosHCS.com) for additional resources.



Sherman’s March to Atlanta

## Vocabulary

conferred

forage

## Key People, Places, and Events

General Ulysses S. Grant  
 General William T. Sherman  
 Sherman’s Campaign to the Sea  
 Captain Farragut

Battle of the Wilderness  
 Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse  
 General Sheridan

## Discussion Questions

1. Describe Grant’s plan to capture Lee’s army and ravage the South.
2. Describe the events upon Sherman’s entrance into Atlanta.
3. What type of damage did Sherman do as he marched his troops through the South?

4. What was the result to the South because of Grant's successful plan?
5. How did England aid the cause of the South?
6. What did Lee say of the army of the Potomac once Grant was made its general?
7. Name one way God's Kingdom was advanced during the war.
8. What government action earned Lincoln strong criticism? Why?

*Adapted for High School from the book:*

## ***History of the United States***

*by William M. Davidson*

### ***The Civil War: 1864***

#### **Plan of Operations for 1864**

One day in the spring of 1864, two men conferred in the parlor of a prominent hotel in Cincinnati. Spread out on a table before them lay some especially prepared military maps, which both were eagerly scanning. Before the meeting ended, the two parties to this conference had decided upon the plan of operations for the Union armies in 1864. These two men were Union generals—one of them Ulysses S. Grant, the other, General William T. Sherman. Grant, with the army of the Potomac, was to capture Lee's army; while Sherman was to carry the ravages of war into the heart of the Confederacy, capture Johnston's army, touch at some point upon the Atlantic coast, and then march northward to intercept Lee, should he attempt to escape from Grant at Richmond.

#### **IN THE CENTER**

#### **Sherman's Campaign Against Atlanta – May 5 to September 2**

When Sherman parted with his superior in Cincinnati, he hastened south, determined to move as soon as possible to accomplish his part in this gigantic campaign. General Joseph E. Johnston was

in command of the southern army in Georgia. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, the same day that Grant moved to begin his part of the campaign, Sherman started south with his force of 100,000 men to attack Johnston, who was fortified at Dalton in northern Georgia.

Now began a series of brilliant engagements in which Sherman by his favorite flank movement caused Johnston to fall back from one position to another until, by the latter part of July, the Confederates had been driven within the entrenchments at Atlanta. At Dalton, Resaca, Altoona, Dallas, Kennesaw, Lost Mountain, and many other places, the Union forces had been successful, but they had met with stubborn resistance, and now at Atlanta a siege was to be kept up for more than a month. Tired of Johnston's policy of retreating, Jefferson Davis removed him from command and put General John B. Hood in charge of the Confederate forces at that point.

#### **Sherman Enters Atlanta – September 2**

This change in command of the Confederate army meant a change of policy. General Hood soon made a furious charge

upon the Union army on July 20, but after an hour's engagement was severely repulsed and forced to fall back within his lines. Two days later he attacked a second time, but was again driven back into the city after suffering the loss of about 10,000 of his men. Sherman now prepared to cut off Hood's communications by marching around Atlanta, capturing its railroads on the east and south, and then taking the city from the rear. But, on September 2, Hood evacuated the city and fled, and the federal army at once took possession.

### **Hood Turns Northward – Battle of Nashville – December 15 and 16**

On evacuating Atlanta, Hood first marched to the southwest, and then boldly turned northward, threatening Sherman's line of communication. After destroying about twenty miles of the Chattanooga and Atlanta railroad—the only route over which supplies could reach Sherman—with the evident intention of invading Tennessee and thus drawing Sherman after him, Sherman at once dispatched General George Henry Thomas to Nashville with a large body of troops to intercept Hood. Thomas arrived none too soon, for in the middle of November Hood crossed the Tennessee River and eagerly began his northward march.

At Columbia, a skirmish took place between Hood's army and a detachment of Thomas's force. On the last day of November, a desperate and sanguinary battle ensued at Franklin, where Hood's army was badly shattered. Urged on as if by some relentless fate, Hood reached Nashville and formed his line of battle in front of the entrenchments of the ever cautious but invincible Thomas. As time

went by and Thomas did not attack Hood, the whole country became alarmed. But Thomas had the courage to wait until he felt prepared to attack; and the result of the battle fought on December 15 and 16 was his justification for his delay. When Thomas burst upon Hood's soldiers, they fled in utter rout, leaving on the field their dead and wounded, their artillery and their arms. So complete was the destruction of Hood's army that never again was it successfully reorganized.

### **From Atlanta to the Sea – November 15 to December 22**

When Hood turned northward, Sherman planned to march forth into the very heart of the Confederacy, live upon the country, reach and take some seacoast city, then turn northward and join Grant in the vicinity of Richmond. After resting his troops, Sherman was ready to advance. He destroyed the railroad connecting Atlanta with Chattanooga, applied the torch to all public buildings in Atlanta, cut the telegraph wires, and with this magnificent army of 60,000 as well trained and intelligent men "as ever trod the earth," swung off on November 15 on his famous march from Atlanta to the sea. The army marched in four parallel columns, but a few miles apart, advancing about fifteen miles a day. Each brigade detailed a certain number of men to gather supplies of forage and provisions.

Starting off on foot in the morning these foragers would return in the evening mounted on ponies or mules, or driving a family carriage loaded outside and in with everything the country afforded. Railroads were torn up and the rails heated and twisted, bridges were burned, and the fertile



country for thirty miles on either side of the line of march was laid to waste. Georgia's soldiers were in the North, so this army met with little resistance. When next the North heard from Sherman, he was in front of Savannah. Savannah was evacuated and Sherman entered on December 22. The Confederacy had again been cut in twain. Georgia, with her arsenals and factories, had been the workshop of the South. Sherman had followed the Confederates to their "inmost recess," and had shown the world how feeble was their power, how rapidly their doom was approaching.

### **Farragut Enters Mobile Bay – August 5**

Mobile was the stronghold of the Confederacy on the Gulf. Two strong forts on low-lying sand points guarded the entrance to the bay, thirty miles below the city. Within the harbor lay a Confederate fleet, and among its vessels the monster ironclad ram, *Tennessee*. Farragut, the hero of New Orleans, determined to force an entrance to this bay. About six o'clock on the morning of August 5, he advanced to the attack. Soon one of his leading vessels was sunk by the explosion of a torpedo, but Farragut, lashed to the rigging of his flagship *Hartford*, boldly took the lead and passed through the torpedo line followed by his fleet. The forts were soon safely passed. In the engagement with the Confederate fleet, two of their vessels were captured, and the powerful ironclad *Tennessee* was so badly disabled that, after an engagement of an hour and a quarter, she ran up her white flag. A few days later, the forts at the entrance to the harbor surrendered, but the city itself remained in the possession of the Confederates until the following year.

### **England and the Confederate Cruisers**

During the war the English authorities quietly allowed the building of Confederate cruisers in English dockyards. Notwithstanding the protest of the American government, these privateers were permitted to leave English ports to prey upon the commerce of the United States. There were six or eight of these cruisers which constantly harassed American commerce. The *Shenandoah* is said to have destroyed or captured more than \$6,000,000 worth of American property on the high seas. It was the custom of these cruisers to avoid encounters with American men-of-war, but to assail, wherever and whenever they could, American merchantmen. Millions of dollars' worth of property was thus taken or destroyed by these English built cruisers, and American commerce was practically driven from the seas. The attitude of the English authorities in thus extending sympathy and aid to the Southern rebellion created the most hostile feeling in the United States against England.

### **The Kearsarge and the Alabama**

The most famous of these cruisers was the *Alabama*, under Captain Raphael Semmes, who before the rebellion was an officer of the United States Navy. Semmes was the most daring of the Confederate searovers. He at first commanded the *Sumter*, and later become commander of the *Alabama*. When that cruiser was building at Liverpool, Charles Francis Adam, minister of England, had protested against its leaving British waters, but in spite of this protest, the *Alabama* was permitted to slip away to the Azores Islands, where Semmes and a

Confederate crew were in waiting to receive her. She destroyed American commerce right and left, taking millions of dollars' worth of American prizes. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 1864, the *Alabama* encountered the United States steamer *Kearsarge*, under command of Captain John A. Winslow, off the coast of Cherbourg, France. After an hour's engagement the *Alabama* was so disabled that she ran up the white flag and soon afterward sank.

## IN THE EAST

### Grant's Plan

Grant was now in command of all the Union forces under arms on the continent. He took up his headquarters with the army of the Potomac, and a little after midnight on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 1864, set that army of 120,000 men in motion across the Rapidan. He then sent a telegram to Sherman to start from Chattanooga and carry out his part of the plan agreed upon at the Cincinnati conference, and another telegram to Butler at Fortress Monroe to move up the James River to City Point below Richmond, and hold that as a base of supplies in anticipation of Grant's reaching the James with the army of the Potomac. Grant's plan was to begin a forward movement of all these armies, with a view to pounding the Confederate armies until they surrendered or the Confederacy went to pieces. After the first battle across the Rapidan, Lee remarked, "The army of the Potomac at last has a general who will not retreat."

### Battle of the Wilderness – May 5 and 6

Grant had no sooner crossed the Rapidan and moved down toward the

region where Hooker had met such severe repulse at Chancellorsville than Lee fell furiously upon the army of the Potomac, determined to drive it back across the river. In the two days' bloody battle which followed, on May 5 and 6, Grant himself says no greater fighting was ever witnessed on the continent. The battle took place in what is known as "The Wilderness"—a wild lonely region, where the country for miles around is covered with a dense growth of cedar and scrub oak so closely compacted as to prevent the free and easy movement of troops. At the end of the two days' struggle, Lee retired to his entrenchments, and Grant, content to leave him there, began his famous series of movements "by the left flank" with a view to forcing his army in between Lee and his communication at Richmond. Lee, detecting his movement, hastily forsook his entrenchments and being perfectly familiar with the geography of the Wilderness, soon planted himself squarely in front of Grant's line at Spotsylvania Courthouse.

### The Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse – May 9-12

Here for three days a furious battle raged in a country as wild as that in which the army had fought so desperately on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May. The battle ended at nightfall of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, Lee falling back to a new position on the following morning. For eight days—from May 5 to 12—the two armies had been constantly under fire with Grant steadily pressing nearer Richmond. "The men toiled all day at the work of slaughter, lay down to sleep at night, and rose to resume the bloody labor in the morning, as men do in the ordinary peaceful business of life." The dead and the wounded on both

sides numbered into the thousands, and the ambulance train carrying the dying and wounded loyal soldiers of the North, made one long continuous line from Spotsylvania to Washington.

### **North Anna – May 23-25: Cold Harbor – June 3**

At Spotsylvania, Grant rested a week on account of the rains. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, he moved toward the North Anna River, and in crossing it divided his army into two divisions. Lee at once saw his advance and forced his Confederate army between the now divided Union forces. Several encounters on May 23 – 25 between the contending forces convinced Grant that it would be the part of wisdom to withdraw north of the stream. This he did at once, but he was no sooner across than he marched southeasterly along the course of the North Anna to its junction with the Pamunkey River. He successfully crossed the latter stream in the vicinity of Hanover and at once pushed forward in a southeasterly direction to Cold Harbor, ten miles from Richmond. Here he again found Lee strongly entrenched. On the morning of June 3, Grant gave battle, but he met with a bloody repulse, his loss in killed and wounded amounting to more than 5,000 men.

### **Change of Base from the York to the James River**

Grant now gave up all hope of immediately taking Richmond and resolved to change his base from White House on the Pamunkey River to City Point on the James—a similar movement to the one accomplished by McClellan in 1862. While

this movement was in progress under the direction of his army and the navy, Grant lay in front of the entrenchments at Cold Harbor and for ten days put forth every effort to induce Lee to come out and fight him in the open. Failing in this, he resumed his southward march, reaching the James River on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **The Race to Petersburg**

Now began a race between the two armies for the possession of Petersburg—a point twenty miles south of Richmond and an important railroad center connecting with the Confederate capital. Before the Union soldiers attacked, Petersburg was strongly reinforced by Lee, who now took personal command of the defense of that city. An attempt was made by Meade on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June to carry the Confederate works by assault, but Meade was repulsed with great loss of life. Grant, anxious to save the lives of his men, finally resolved on taking Petersburg by siege, thereby repeating the scenes so familiar to him at the siege of Vicksburg.

## **IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY**

### **Early's Raids**

In the latter part of June, Lee, hoping to draw off some of Grant's troops from the vicinity of Richmond, sent General Jubal A. Early northward to threaten Washington. Early northward to threaten Washington. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, Early arrived before the city, but delayed his attack until the following day. That night reinforcement came from Grant, and the city was saved. Early retired, but in the latter part of July he again flew north—this time into the Shenandoah Valley. He drove the Union

forces from that valley and swept across the Potomac into Maryland—a portion of his force advancing as far north as Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

The Shenandoah Valley was a rich field for foraging, and since 1862 had been the scene of constant raids on the part of the Confederates. Grant, weary of annoyance from that quarter, sent Sheridan with an army in quest of Early. Sheridan soon appeared upon the scene and during the month of September, destroyed or captured over half of Early's army. Sheridan, acting under orders from Grant, now proceeded to lay waste this splendid agricultural valley from its source northward to the Potomac River, in order that it could be no more used by Confederate raiders as a base of operations against Washington. So effectually was Sheridan's work done that it was said at the time that even a crow could not subsist in the Shenandoah Valley without carrying his rations with him. Unaware of this complete devastation, Early once more made a raid northward into the valley for the purpose of securing needed forage for Lee's army at Richmond.

### **The Battle of Winchester – October 19**

On his arrival in the valley, Early learned that the Union army was encamped at Cedar Creek in the northern end of the valley. On the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, he succeeded in creeping around this army, and, at the early dawn of the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>, fell upon Sheridan's troops, taking them completely by surprise. General Wright, the commanding officer on the ground, unable to stop the panic that ensued, ordered a retreat to Winchester—twenty miles away. Sheridan, at the time the

battle began, was at Winchester. Having learned of Early's return to the valley, he fully suspected what was the cause of the cannonading in the direction of Cedar Creek. Hastily calling for his horse, he mounted and was off at full speed on that famous ride told so thrillingly in verse by Thomas Buchanan Read in his poem, "Sheridan's Ride." A little before the hour of noon Sheridan arrived upon the scene, his steed white with foam. As he faced his straggling troops he rose on his stirrups with the greeting— "Turn, boys, turn; we're going back!" His presence acted like magic upon his troops—the lines were instantly reformed and awaited Early's attack. Under the personal leadership of Sheridan, his troops were invincible. Early was repulsed with such spirit that nearly the whole of his army was destroyed. Never again did the Confederates attempt to renew the war in the Shenandoah Valley.

### **Close of the Year**

The situation at the close of the year 1864 showed that the Confederacy was fast going to pieces. Grant still kept up his siege at Petersburg, drawing the line tighter and tighter. Sheridan had destroyed Early's army and laid waste the valley of the Shenandoah. Thomas had broken Hood's army at Nashville. Sherman was encamped at Savannah after having cut the Confederacy in twain a second time. The *Alabama*, the last of the formidable Confederate cruisers, had ended her career in destruction and American commerce could once more feel free on the high seas. The great and powerful North was still as vigorous as ever, and its armies were now being led by some of the greatest generals the world had ever known. The



Confederacy, now twice severed, with all communication with the outside world cut off, was practically starving to death. The end of the great rebellion was near at hand.

### The Spirit of God

Powerful movements of God’s Spirit were reported during the Civil War. Christians served on both sides. Some of the most well-known include Generals Robert E. Lee and “Stonewall” Jackson of the South, as well as Admiral Andrew Foote of the North. Frequent revivals swept through the Southern armies, and chaplains reported thousands of conversions and baptisms—a clear example of God using a sin-drenched upheaval of history to accomplish one of His glorious purposes, the furtherance of His Kingdom.

### The President vs. the Constitution

While Lincoln enjoyed strong support throughout the North, he earned strong criticism for what many called abuses of power in circumventing the limits placed upon him by the constitution. For example, he suspended writs of *habeas corpus*, thereby allowing a suspect to be arrested without being charged with a crime or granted a trial. (The authority to do this was limited by the constitution to Congress.) This, naturally, led to abuses. More importantly, however, it laid the groundwork for further, gradual amassing of power into the hands of the Federal Government and in particular, the executive branch.

NAME OF BATTLE	Place Where Fought	Date	Commanding General of Union Army	Commanding General of Confederate Army
Wilderness ...	Wilderness, Va.	May 5-6....	Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Gen. R. E. Lee
Resaca .....	Resaca, Ga.	May 14-15..	Maj.-Gen. W. T. Sherman	Gen. J. E. Johnston
Cold Harbor ..	Cold Harbor, Va.	June 3.....	Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Gen. R. E. Lee
Atlanta .....	Atlanta, Ga.	July 22.....	Maj.-Gen. W. T. Sherman	Gen. J. E. Johnston
Petersburg...	Petersburg, Va.	July 30.....	Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant	Gen. R. E. Lee
Mobile Bay ...	Mobile, Ala.	Aug. 5 .....	Rear-Admiral D. G. Farragut	Admiral F. Buchanan
Winchester ...	Winchester, Va.	Oct. 19.....	Maj.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan	Lieut.-Gen. J. A. Early
Cedar Creek ..	Cedar Creek, Va.	Oct. 19.....	Maj.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan	Lieut.-Gen. J. A. Early
Nashville .....	Nashville, Tenn.	Dec. 15 .....	Maj.-Gen. G. H. Thomas	Gen. J. B. Hood

Important battles of 1864