

Curriculum Unit Introduction

Title of Unit: East Tennessee Railroads in the Civil War

Vital Theme of the unit:

The importance of the Railroads in East Tennessee during the Civil War years of 1861-1862.

Author and contact information: Elizabeth Annette Taylor
5th grade teacher
Tellico Plains Jr. High School
Monroe County, TN
School phone 423-253-2250
Email home eannette@tds.net
School taylora@monroe.k12.tn.us

Grade Level: Five – High School

Number of Lessons in the Unit: Three

Time needed to complete the unit: One Week

Curriculum Standards Addressed (List):

5.1.spi.2. Interpret how culture changes over time as a consequence of industrialization, technology or cultural diffusion (i.e., railroad transportation, telecommunication, building design, varied types of music and the growth of government services).

5.3.spi.5. Identify the physical and political boundaries of Tennessee.

5.3.spi.7. Recognize and compare landforms, climate, and natural resources of the three grand divisions of Tennessee.

5.5.spi.2. Recognize military and nonmilitary leaders from the North and South during Civil War.

5.5.spi.7. Interpret a primary reading sample.

5.6.spi.2. Use tools of social science inquiry such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents.

5.6.spi.3. Recognize situations requiring conflict resolution.

Technology used: Computer with TV or Overhead Connection
Overhead with transparencies
Computer with internet

Primary Sources

Bible, Donahue. *Broken Vessels & East Tennessee Unionists in the Civil War*. Mohawk, TN. Schneider, Bridgett. 1861 Greene County TNGenWeb page copyrighted. *Aftermath of November 9th 1861*. © 1996-2003.

<http://www.genealogyforyou.com/usa/tennessee/greene/pbb003.html> or
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngreene/pbb003.html>.

Bob Amsler: *Railroads in the Civil War*. Gateway Division NMRR.
www.gatewaynmra.org/articles/civil-war1.htm. Feb. 8, 2003.

Hinshaw, Jan. The Hinshaw Family Association. Saratoga, CA.
<http://www.rawbw.com/~hinshaw/cgi-bin/id?a3549>

Secondary Sources

Judd, Cameron. *The Bridge Burners*. Johnson City, TN. Overmountain Press. 1995.
Piston, William G. *Carter's Raid*. Johnson City, TN. Overmountain Press. 1989.

Unit introduction and overview of instructional strategies:

This unit is ideal to use as an introduction to the Civil War destruction of East Tennessee Railroads. The lessons are very specific to East Tennessee Railroads during the Civil War. This unit should be started after reading *The Bridge Burners* and *Carter's Raid*. These books should be presented by the teacher to younger grades. However, older students should be able to read *Carter's Raid*. *The Bridge Burners* would be a hard read for younger students, but High School students should be fine on their own.

The Power Point Slide Show will catch the interest of the students and increase their desire to learn more.

The lesson on mapping Railroads in East Tennessee during the Civil War years of 1861-1862 will allow the teacher to concentrate on a small section of the Civil War.

The internet lesson allows students to research and comment on sites for finding information on the bridge burnings in East Tennessee during the Civil War.

These only open to the door to more topics concerning the Civil War Era.

East Tennessee Railroads and the Civil War

Railroads were very important to the United States as a revolutionary way to transport supplies and people in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1850, there were very few railroads in the South; however, by 1861 there were two hundred railroads in the United States. Two thirds were found in the Northern states or states that were loyal to the Union. The remaining one third was established in the South. These railroads were quickly utilized to move troops and supplies (Amsler). The use of railroads made them vital to the North and the South in the Civil War as both military targets and strategic resources. In East Tennessee, the destruction of railroad bridges became a major concern during the Civil War and impeded the movement of troops and supplies.

Two sources used to express the importance of railroads in East Tennessee are *Carter's Raid* and *The Bridge Burners of the Civil War*. The importance of railroads for the movement of supplies and soldiers proved to be costly during the Civil War in East Tennessee. The state of Tennessee remained divided with the West and Middle sections deeply involved in slavery. In East Tennessee, there were not many slaves and as a result, most people remained in favor of the Union. In June 1862, Tennessee seceded from the Union over the protests of the people from East Tennessee. The people for the most part remained Unionist, in a Confederate state, and demonstrated their loyalty in many ways (Bergeron, Ash, Keith: pgs. 110-137).

During October 1861, Captain Thomas Tipton, a Federal soldier, rode to William B. Carter's house in Elizabethton, TN. Upon his arrival he sent for Daniel Stover, a Unionist, and there revealed a plan to burn the railroad bridges of East Tennessee on November 8, 1861 (Judd. pgs. 35-36). The Unionists were to destroy the railroad bridges at Strawberry Plains, Bridgeport, Chickamauga Creek, Loudon, Hiwassee River, Zollicoffer (the Union Bridge), and

two bridges in Marion County, TN. The destruction of these bridges would slow or halt the transfer of supplies and troops to the Confederate army locations. The two bridges in Marion County, the Hiwassee Bridge, and Chickamauga Creek Bridges were burned quickly. However, the Loudon and Bridgeport bridges were heavily guarded and hence the raiders gave up. The attempt on the Strawberry Plains Bridge was not successful because the soldiers lost the matches. The Zollicoffer Bridge was feared destroyed since no report was received from Carroll's Brigade in Knoxville. Later reports confirmed that the Zollicoffer Bridge did burn that night (Judd, Pgs 69 -70).

On November 11, 1861, the Secretary of War of the Confederacy sent Colonel Danville Leadbetter, of the Provisional Army, to command troops, to protect and reconstruct the bridges, and keep the lines of communication open from Bristol to Chattanooga (Judd. Pgs 71 – 72). Colonel Leadbetter's troops caught three of the bridge burners Confederates Henry Fry, Jacob M. Hensie (correct spelling was Hinshaw), and Hugh A. Self. Colonel Leadbetter wrote that the three men confessed to their own guilt then testified to the guilt of others involved. Hensie (Hinshaw) and Fry were tried, convicted, and hanged in Greenville, TN near the train depot. Self was only sixteen and was sent with his father to be tried by the Department of War. However, they and the other bridge burners were captured by Union General Carroll's troops and later hanged in Knoxville, TN (Judd). Pgs 72-89). The history of Jacob Madison Hinshaw was obtained from a primary document compiled for the Hinshaw Family Association by Jan Hinshaw of Saratoga, CA.

An article in the *Knoxville Daily Registrar*, The Tennessee Rebellion, on November 21, 1861, recounts the attack on the railroads by the Union army. The report states, "The recent outbreak and lawless conduct of the traitors of East Tennessee deserve the most condign

punishment at the hand of the Confederate authorities. They cannot be treated as enemies in the ranks of an invading foe, but as assassins and incendiaries with the knife and torch in hand. They should be hung and gibbeted whenever caught.” This shows how the Confederate supporters felt about the Unionists. For the Unionists to invade their own lands and cause destruction was a personal affront to the citizens as demonstrated by the article. This invasion would not be taken lightly and the enemy must be punished severely. Consequently, the Unionists would be hung when captured.

Another primary source from Greene County, TN entitled, *The Aftermath of November 9, 1861*, tells the story of the Bridge Burners through letters from various military personnel and President Abraham Lincoln. The article starts with a letter from C. Wallace, President, East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, to Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris, in which he told of the imminent danger to the railroads of East Tennessee, from the pro-Union elements. As a result, a dispatch was sent from Secretary of War, J.P. Benjamin stating that those involved in burning the bridges should be hung. Colonel Danville Leadbetter took his advice and proceeded to hang anyone caught burning bridges. A reply from President Lincoln on January 6, 1862 to Union Brigadier-General Buell stated, “Your dispatch of yesterday has been received and it disappoints and distresses me. . . My distress is that our friends in East Tennessee are being hanged and driven to despair and even now I fear are thinking of taking rebel arms for the sake of personal protection. In this we lose the most valuable stake we have in the South” (Bible).

Another incident of burning railroad bridges that occurred in East Tennessee comes from Piston’s book *Carters’ Raid*. From Argentina, Union Naval Lieutenant Samuel Carter wrote to the Knoxville-Whig concerning the need to protect East Tennessee during 1861. Reverend William Carter, his brother, was also concerned with the status of East Tennessee. When Samuel

Carter returned he was appointed Union Army Brigadier of the East Tennessee Brigade. President Lincoln and Union Major General George B. McClellan were concerned that if East Tennessee was lost to the Confederacy the Union would lose the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, making any movement to Richmond require a long detour around the Appalachians. “Both Lincoln and McClellan believed that it was politically important to occupy East Tennessee as soon as possible” (Piston pg. 15). On December 10, 1862, General Samuel Carter, assigned to Union General William S. Rosencrans unit, was ordered to move farther to the southeast. Major General Horatio Wright and Major General Gordon Granger decided that General Carter’s troops could make a vital contribution to the campaign in Middle Tennessee by creating a disturbance in East Tennessee. On December 18, Major General Wright authorized General Samuel P. Carter and Colonel James P.T. Carter (his brother) to conduct a raid on East Tennessee. In late December 1862, General Carter traveled south into East Tennessee with only twelve hundred troops, of which one fourth were untrained. They were armed with only sabers, pistols, and some five shot carbines. General Carter’s troops traveled day and night to reach their destination. When word of troops in the area was sent out the Confederates set up guard at the Salt mines in Saltville, Virginia. However, General Carter’s army kept moving on toward Blountville. As they entered the town, a woman who spotted them screamed out an alarm. However, Carter’s army captured the town’s hospital, which contained thirty confederate soldiers, the main military institution.

General Samuel Carter let part of his soldiers rest in Blountville, but sent his brother James and some troops on to Union, TN. On December 30, James captured the town by lying to Major B.G. McDowell about the size of the Union force. Confederate Major McDowell surrendered the garrison without a fight. When General Carter’s force arrived, James’ troops

were already tearing up the railroad tracks. General Carter ordered his men to stack dry wood against the railroad bridge and allowed G.O. Collins, accused of burning the same bridge on November 8, 1861, to set fire to the bridge. General Carter's men burned a wagon bridge, the depot, three cars filled with food, salt, and potassium nitrate, seven hundred muskets, and the telegraph equipment. They also captured thirty mules and horses.

The evening of December 30, General Carter sent James and some troops to Carter's Depot. There they captured the train and Confederate Colonel Robert G.A. Love. General Carter and his men again arrived after James' troops began to destroy the railroad. Colonel Love was left on the train and General Carter's troops ran it backward onto the burning bridge, which collapsed into the Watauga River in a shower of sparks and a hiss of steam (Piston). In less than one day, General Carter captured three towns, Blountsville, Union, and Carter's Depot.

The brothers decided to leave going to the west before turning north. On December 31, while traveling back to Kentucky they camped at the Holston River near Kingsport. On Jan 1, 1863, they turned north, about eight miles from Rogersville, and traveled through Looney's Gap in the Clinch Mountains where they finally rested. This was the first real sleep General Carter and his troops received in ninety-six hours. Finally, on January 9, 1863 they reached Richmond. In all they traveled four hundred seventy miles in rough terrain, burned two of the most important railroad bridges, killed more than twelve men, and captured over four hundred. Union loses were limited to two men killed, four wounded, and fifteen missing or captured (Piston, pgs 17-71).

The importance of railroads changed by 1865 to become a major form of transportation for all people. People had begun moving westward and railroads were a fast mode of travel. For example, In *A Year in the South*, John Robertson, an in-training Methodist preacher and teacher

in East Tennessee's Roane County, traveled by railroad to Iowa to escape the "Lincolmites" who had been chasing after him for several months. John Robertson, once a Confederate soldier, was sought for bushwhacking Union soldiers. Attacks by Unionists in East Tennessee became so severe that John left his teaching position and moved to another community. John knew that the attacks would continue; therefore he and his family decided to leave East Tennessee. They traveled by wagon from Blue Springs eight miles to Sweetwater in early September. From there they traveled the East Tennessee and Georgia Railway to Chattanooga, switched trains, and boarded the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, which carried them into Alabama before turning north to Nashville. There they changed to the Louisville and Nashville line that took them to Louisville, Kentucky. Afterwards they headed for Indianapolis, Indiana and then on to Chicago, Illinois. Finally, they boarded a ferry in Chicago bound for Oskaloosa, Iowa. The entire trip of twelve hundred miles took only four days (Ash pgs. 171-196).

In conclusion, both *The Bridge Burners* and *Carter's Raid* demonstrate the importance of the railroad in East Tennessee during the Civil War. The books are bound together by the fact that they recount the story of men from the same family, the Carter family of Elizabethton, TN. The Reverend William Carter, in *The Bridge Burners*, that Federal soldier Captain Thomas Tipton visits is the same Reverend William Carter that is the brother of Colonel Samuel P. Carter in *Carter's Raid*. The railroads were essential to both the Confederate and Union armies as military targets during the Civil War. Attacks on the railroads include the Confederate strike on Fort Sumter and the destruction of the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroad during the attack of Vicksburg, and the Union army's attack on East Tennessee railroad bridges from Chattanooga to Elizabethton from 1861 to 1862 (Amsler). The railroad attacks allowed the Union army the necessary time to position their defense. When the Union burned the bridges in East Tennessee,

they forced the Confederates to delay their attacks. Therefore, the railroad attacks resulted in the Confederate armies' inability to get troops quickly to new locations. The attacks helped the Union to defeat the Confederate army in East Tennessee. The Carter family's efforts contributed to the Unions defeat of the Confederacy in Tennessee.

Bibliography

Ash, Stephen V. A Year in the South. New York: MacMillian, 2004.

Bergeron, Ash, and Keith. Tennesseans and Their History. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.

Bible , Donahue. Aftermath of November 9th, 1861. 1st. Mohawk, TN: Dodson Creek Publishers, 1994.

Bible , Donahue. Broken Vessels and East Tennessee Unionists in the Civil War 1861-1865. 1st. Mohawk, TN: Dodson Creek Publishers, 1996.

Hinshaw, Jan. The Hinshaw Family association. The Hinshaw Family Association. 15 Jul 2006 <<http://www.rawbw.com/~hinshaw/cgi-bin/id?a3549>>.

Judd, Cameron. The Bridge Burners. Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 1995.

Milhollen, Hurst D. and Mugridge, Donald H. "From Milhollen and Mugridge." Civil war photos. 1977. American Memory. 15 Jul 2006 <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwar:@OR\(@field\(AUTHOR+@3\(Barnard,+George+N+,+1819+1902,+\)\)+@field\(OTHER+@3\(Barnard,+George+N+,+1819+1902,+\)\)\)>](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwar:@OR(@field(AUTHOR+@3(Barnard,+George+N+,+1819+1902,+))+@field(OTHER+@3(Barnard,+George+N+,+1819+1902,+)))>)>.

Piston, William G.. Carter's Raid. Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 1989.

Schneider, Bridgett. "rootsweb ." tngreeneco. 2005. Greene County TNGen . 15 Jul 2003 <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngreene/pbb003.html>>.


Sperry, J. Austin. The Tennessee Rebellion." Knoxville Daily Register. November 21, 1861, 111A: A2, page 2.

Primary Sources used in this paper:

The Hinshaw Family Association

<http://www.rawbw.com/~hinshaw/cgi-bin/id?a3549>

Jan Hinshaw
The Hinshaw Family Association
15227 Quito Rd.
Saratoga, CA 95070 USA

Jacob Madison Hinshaw [ID 03549] [Click here to switch to Ahnentafel view:](#) 

(Jacob Madison Hinshaw)¹⁵⁹ (Jacob Madison Hensie)¹⁶² (Jacob Madison Hinchey)^{162,a,45,b}
(Madison J. Hinchy)^c (Matt Hinshaw)¹⁵⁹ (Matt Hincer)¹⁶²

Born c1840, Tennessee.^{d,174,e,159}

He married Almarinda Walker, Sep 22 1858, Hawkins County, Tennessee.^{45,159,162,174,a,b}
(Almarind Walker)^{162,e} (Lorinda Walker)^{45,162,a,f,b} (Rinda Walker)^g (Elias Beal, Security).^f
Almarinda, daughter of Gabriel Walker & [Rebecca Jane Hinshaw](#), was born c1843,
Tennessee.^{162,g,h,i}

Jacob and family were shown in the 1860 census (Jul 13-16 1860), Greene County, Tennessee:^c

Jacob M. Henshaw, age 19, born in Tennessee; farmer; \$50 personal property.

Almarind Henshaw, age 17, born in Tennessee.

[William A. Henshaw](#), age 4 months, born in Tennessee.

Living next door in 1860 was Jacob's father, [William Hinshaw](#), and family.^j

Jacob Madison Hinshaw died Nov 30 1861, Green County, Tennessee; age 22; buried Long Family Cemetery, near Bulls Gap, Tennessee.¹⁵⁹

Jacob was hung for his Union loyalties. Tennessee voted for secession on June 8, 1861, with residents of eastern Tennessee voting two-to-one against secession but losing the vote to the state's larger western population. Rev. William Carter, who had been a delegate to an early 1861 convention of pro-Union loyalists at Greeneville, devised a plan to burn down the railroad bridge over Lick Creek, near Potterstown in Greene County. Carter went to Washington and met with President Abraham Lincoln, General George McClellan and Secretary of War William Seward. Lincoln gave his personal approval for the plan and assured Carter that the Union

army would invade eastern Tennessee from Kentucky immediately after the bridge burning to protect the Union loyalists.¹⁵⁹

Carter returned to Green County and, with the help of David Fry, assembled a party of 40 to 60 loyalist men. The men gathered at the home of Jacob Harmon on the night of November 8. In a corner of a large room was placed a small wooden table, over which was spread a United States flag. Each man stepped forward, one at a time, and placed his left hand on the flag, raised his right hand, and took an oath to "do what was ordered of him that night and to never disclose what he had done."¹⁵⁹

After midnight, the raiders set out on horseback for the two-mile ride to the wooden railroad bridge across Lick Creek. About 2:00 A.M. on November 9, they captured several Confederate guards inside a tent at one end of the bridge. Some of the men set fire to the bridge, while others gave the guards a choice: swear loyalty to the United States or die on the spot (none of the guards chose to die that night).¹⁵⁹

By the next day (November 10), Confederate authorities had tracked down five of the conspirators, including Jacob Hinshaw. The promised invasion of Union soldiers never happened.¹⁵⁹

On November 11, Confederate Colonel W.B. Wood sent a dispatch to General Samuel Cooper requesting instructions. Colonel Daniel Leadbetter, Provisional Army, was assigned to the command of troops to rebuild the bridge.¹⁵⁹

By November 25, time was running out for Jacob and his co-conspirators. That day, J.C. Ramsey, district attorney for the Confederate District of Tennessee, sent a dispatch to Confederate War Secretary Benjamin: "The military authorities in command at this post have determined to try the bridge-burners and other men charged with treason by a court-martial. What shall I do? Answer.". Benjamin sent an immediate and abrupt reply: "I am very glad to hear of the action of the military authorities and hope to hear they have hung every bridge-burner at the end of the burned bridge".¹⁵⁹

On November 30, a dispatch from Colonel Leadbetter was sent from Greeneville, Tennessee: "Two insurgents have to-day been tried for bridge-burning, found guilty, and hanged.". The two insurgents were Henry Fry and Jacob Madison "Matt" Hinshaw, who were both hanged from a large tree near the old railway depot in Greeneville. Colonel Leadbetter ordered their bodies be left hanging on display for hours, as a warning to others.¹⁵⁹

Jacob left his wife with 18-month old son William, and two months after Jacob was hanged Almarinda gave birth to another son, who was named after his late father Jacob. After Jacob was hanged, his father [William](#) enlisted in the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery at age 53.¹⁵⁹

In 1862, the U.S. Congress passed a special act that made Jacob and the other executed bridge-burners posthumous members of the Union Army. They were enrolled in Company F of the 2nd Tennessee Infantry. The act allowed the men's widows and their nearly 20 fatherless children to draw small pensions from the government that had abandoned the loyalist raiders it

had promised to protect. The act also allowed the men's graves, all of which are in Pottertown-area cemeteries, to be marked with official U.S. government markers.¹⁵⁹

In 1865 Almaranda Hinshaw applied for a Civil War Pension as widow of Jacob M. Hinshaw, Company F, 2nd Tennessee Infantry.^k She also listed minor child [James Hinshaw](#) [sic].^k

Almarinda ("Rinda") remarried on Jun 15 1865 to William B. Jenkins.^{159,h,f}

Almarinda and family were shown in the 1870 census (Aug 11 1870), Hawkins County, Tennessee:^h

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngreene/pbb003.html>

Bible, Donahue. Broken Vessels & East Tennessee Unionists in the Civil War. Mohawk, TN. Schneider, Bridgett. 1861Greene County TNGenWeb page copyrighted. Aftermath of November 9th 1861. © 1996-2003. copyright material permission obtained.

Aftermath of November 9th, 1861

On October 29, 1861, C. WALLACE, President, East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, sent a warning letter to Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris, in which he advised him of the imminent danger to the railroads of East Tennessee, from pro-Union elements. He said in part: "*I don't like to meddle in things that are in keeping of men so much more vigilant and wiser than I am but I am constrained by the circumstances around me to believe that Zollicoffer and the railroads of East Tennessee are in a dangerous condition at present.*" Wallace further elaborated by saying: "*I am well satisfied that there is today a larger Lincoln force well armed in East Tennessee than Zollicoffer has of Southern men under his command; that this force is in such a state of organization that they can and will be concentrated in Zollicoffer's rear whenever they are advised of a sufficient force in his front.*"

COLONEL W. B. WOOD, at Knoxville, sent a similar communication to Confederate Adjutant General S. Cooper, in which he related: "*It is a great mistake to suppose that the people of East Tennessee are submissive or willing to acquiesce. They have only been held quiet by the force which was at Knoxville and now that it is gone they are evidently preparing for a general uprising if the Lincoln army should make any advance into Tennessee.*"

The events of the night of November 8-9, 1861, at Lick Creek railroad bridge and other points in East Tennessee, made instant prophets of Wallace and Colonel Wood, when several bridges were burned.

JOHN R. BRANNER, President East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, sent the following dispatch to Confederate Secretary of War, J. P. BENJAMIN, dated at Knoxville, November 9, 1861: "*Two large bridges on my road were burned last night about 12 a 'clock; also one bridge on the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad at the same time and an effort made to burn the largest bridge on my road.*"

Information contained in the Official Records discloses that the Confederate States government took immediate action to bring the bridge-burners to justice. In a communication dated at Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 10th, 1861. from Confederate COLONEL W. B. WOOD to General Zollicoffer, the following statements are found: "*Five of the incendiaries who burned the Lick Creek Bridge*

have been arrested. I have sent up for them. " In the same communication, Wood says, " Regretting as much as anyone this calamity, I feel that I did all that I could to prevent it, and am glad that it is no worse. I had a company at Lick Creek, but the incendiaries deceived them, and getting possession of their guns, took them prisoners and accomplished their ends." This communication was dated one day after the bridge was destroyed.

Another message of the same date, illustrates the great importance which the Confederate government attached to the railroad bridges, and telegraph lines. The dispatch was addressed to R. L. Owen, President Railroad, Lynchburg: "*Colonel Leadbetter, of Engineer Corps, will leave in the morning with a battalion and battery of field pieces He is charged with the duty of restoring and guarding the communications. Other forces will be sent to him via Chattanooga. Your earnest cooperation with him is relied on by the President.*" It was signed: "*J. P. BENJAMIN, Acting Secretary of War*".

On November 11, 1861, COLONEL W. B. WOOD, sent a dispatch from Knoxville, to General Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General, in which he requested instructions, and gave him the following update concerning the Lick Creek bridge-burners: "*I have arrested 6 of the men who were engaged in burning the Lick Creek Bridge, and I desire to have instructions from you as to the proper disposition of them. The slow course of civil law in punishing such incendiaries, it seems to me, will not have the salutary effect which is desireable.*"

Colonel Wood's communication to Adjutant General Cooper, was soon given an answer, by Cooper's subordinate, Assistant Adjutant General Jonathan Withers. It came in the form of *Special Orders, No. 216*, which read as follows:

*Adj. and Insp. General's Office
Richmond, Va., November 11, 1861*

*Special Orders,
No.216*

1. Col. Danville Leadbetter, Provisional Army, is hereby assigned to the command of the troops to be stationed for the protection of the railroads between Bristol and Chattanooga, Tenn. He will reconstruct bridges, repair and keep open the line of communication between those points and will call upon railroad companies for such aid as he may require to carry out this order.

By command of the Secretary of War:

*JNO. WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General*

All too soon, East Tennessee Unionists would learn that Colonel Danville Leadbetter, took those orders very seriously.

Acting Secretary of War, J. P. BENJAMIN told John R. Branner, President Railroad Company Knoxville, via, Bristol, on November 12, 1861: *"Troops have already been sent to protect your road. Be sure you shall be fully and thoroughly protected."*

The following day, November 13, 1861, J. P. BENJAMIN again reassured John R. Branner, as follows: *" Troops now moving to East Tennessee to crush the traitors. You shall be amply protected. "*

COLONEL W. B. WOOD, in Knoxville sent a dispatch to Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of War, on November 20, 1861, detailing some of his feeling about the strong Union sentiment in East Tennessee, and of the expectations of an imminent invasion by the Federal army. He said: *" The prisoners we have tell us that they had every assurance that the army was already in the State, and would join them in a very few days. that the property of Southern men was to be confiscated and divided amongst those who would take up arms for Lincoln. "*

On November 20, 1861, in a dispatch from Knoxville, COLONEL WOOD, tried to reassure Secretary of War, J. P. Benjamin, by saying: *" Sir: The rebellion in East Tennessee has been put down in some of the counties and will be effectually suppressed in less than two weeks in all counties. "*

By November 25, 1861, time was beginning to run out for the captured bridge-burners. On that date J. C. RAMSEY, Confederate States District Attorney for the District of Tennessee, sent a dispatch to Secretary of War, J. P. Benjamin, in which he posed the following question: *"The military authorities in command at this post have determined to try the bridge-burners and other men charged with treason by a court-martial. What shall I do? Answer. "*

On the same date, the following communication was received by District Attorney Ramsey, in Knoxville, from Secretary of War, J. P. BENJAMIN, in Richmond: *" I am*

very glad to hear of the action of the military authorities and hope to hear they have hung every bridge-burner at the end of the burned bridge. "

That communication effectively sealed the fate of the five bridge-burners four of them from "Pottertown." Henry Fry is thought to have lived a short distance away near Gustavus Post Office, close to present day Mt. Carmel.

Other Confederate dispatchs from the period, indicate that many of the pro-Union men were being sent to prison in Tuscaloosda, Alabama, by Colonel Leadbetter, if he didn't deem the charges against them serious enough to merit the death penalty.

Confederate Secretary of War J. P. Benjamin, in Richmond, and Colonel Danville Leadbetter in East Tennessee, seem to have been of a like mind, when it came to dealing with the insurgents. This communication from Confederate Brigadier General WM. H. CARROLL, to Secretary Benjamin, indicates that Carroll was under pressure to deal harshly with the pro-Union prisoners. "*SIR: I am just in receipt of yours of the 25th. Your instructions shall be strictly obeyed. I have not heretofore released any against whom there was proof that they had been engaged in any rebellious movements. It was only those who were arrested upon mere suspicion that I permitted to take the oath of allegiance. "*

On November 30, 1861, the first ominous dispatch left Greeneville, Tennessee. It was the first warning of the terror to come. It was from COLONEL D. LEADBETTER to Secretary of War Benjamin. It is shown here in its brief entirety:

HEADQUARTERS,
Greeneville, November 30, 1861

Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of War:

Two insurgents have to-day been tried for bridge-burning, found guilty and hanged.

D. LEADBETTER,

Colonel

That brief communication referred to JACOB MADISON HINSHAW, and HENRY FRY. Both men were hanged near the old depot in Greeneville, Tennessee, where their bodies were left on public display, hanging from a large tree, for many hours. Henry Fry left a widow and five children, and Jacob Madison Hinshaw left a widow and young son less than two years old.

On the same day, COLONEL LEADBETTER published a "PROCLAMATION" addressed " TO THE CITIZENS OF EAST TENNESSEE." The last paragraph very well summed up his attitude toward bridge-burners. It read: "*Bridge-burners and destroyers of railroad tracks are excepted from among those pardonable. They will be tried by drum-head court-martial and hung on the spot.*" Now, there seemed no question that the other men from "Pottertown" were doomed.

In a later communication from LEADBETTER to Benjamin, dated at Greeneville, on December 8, 1861, he briefly told of how the two men already executed, had been captured, "*in the northern part of Greene toward Cocke County.*" He named them as "*Henry Fry, Jacob M. Hensie, (Jacob Madison Hinshaw) , and Hugh A. Self.*" Leadbetter reiterated that "*Fry and Hensie were tried by drum-head court-martial on the 30th ultimo and executed the same day by hanging.*" Concerning the fate of Hugh A. Self, Leadbetter rather grudgingly admitted that "*He is only sixteen years old not very intelligent and was led away on that occasion by his father and elder brother both of whom I learn have now been captured by General Carroll's troops.*"

On December 10, 1861, another terse dispatch left Knoxville for Secretary of War, Benjamin. It was from GENERAL WM. H. CARROLL. It concerned the fate of C.A.HAUN, and is shown here in full:

KNOXVILLE, December 10, 1861

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR:

The court-martial has sentenced A. C.. Haun (Christopher Alexander Haun),

bridgeburner, to be hung. Sentence approved. Ordered To be executed at 12 o'clock tomorrow. Requires the approval of the President. Please telegraph.

*WM. H. CARROLL
Brigadier-General Commanding*

Secretary of War, J. P. BENJAMIN, replied the same day, as follows:

RICHMOND, December 10, 1861

General W. H. CARROLL, Knoxville:

Execute the sentence of your court-martial on the bridge-burners. The law does not require any approval by the President, but he entirely approves my order to hang every bridge-burner you can catch and convict. "

CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER HAUN, who left a pregnant wife and four young children, died on the gallows at Knoxville. His body was shipped home by railway for burial. The United States flag which covered his coffin, has been preserved by family members for thirteen and one-half decades. It is now in shreds, but is still honored by his descendants.

Although many Confederate dispatchs were exchanged during the month of December, 1861, between East Tennessee and Richmond, *there is no mention* in any of those communications concerning the executions of JACOB HARMON and his son HENRY HARMON, who were hanged on December 17th. We must depend on the account given by William G. "Parson" Browlow, who was imprisoned in Knoxville at the time. Brownlow was a rabid Unionist, and his description of the hanging of those two men is so horrible as to be almost unbelievable. Perhaps that is the reason that no report of it was made to Richmond.

The descriptions left by some eyewitnesses who told of the rope breaking while young Henry Harmon was being hanged...with his father forced to watch....making it necessary to hang his half-lifeless body the second time, may have been a little too much for even Colonel Leadbetter and Secretary Benjamin.

On November 25, 1861, the members of the Confederate general court-martial were appointed at Knoxville. They were ordered to begin meeting "*on the 28th day of November or as soon thereafter as practicable for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it.*" From information found in the Official Records, it appears that the court-martial met for the second time on December 11, 1861, for the trial of Jacob and Henry Harmon, and Harrison Self. The first court-martial had tried C. A. Haun.

As there are no records of the Harmon trial contained in the Official Records, one can only guess at what transpired, but whatever it was...it was short. The Harmons were hanged the same day that their trial began, and the trial of Harrison Self proceeded. The trial of Harrison Self took a little longer. Some delay was granted to the counsel for the defendant, in order to secure the presence of Alexander Lowe, who was considered to be a material witness for the defendant. At 10 o'clock a.m. on December 21, 1861. Harrison Self too was found guilty on all charges. He was sentenced to hang on December 27th.....six days away.

During that six day period, many appeals were made to spare the life of Harrison Self, but none were successful. The execution was scheduled to take place at 4 o'clock p.m. Finally, in a last desperate attempt, Elizabeth Self, the daughter of Harrison Self, sent a telegraph message directly to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Through the intervention of President Davis, Harrison Self escaped the hangman, with only hours to spare, but five men had already died. "Pottertown" had paid dearly.

Jacob Myers was captured in Lee County, Virginia, in the spring of 1862, as he tried to escape to Kentucky. Daniel Smith had been captured earlier. Both men were charged with "being accessories to bridge-burning." Captain David Fry too, "*was captured within our lines in citizen's dress and was sent to Knoxville charged as a citizen of East Tennessee with bridge-burning*" according to a report from Confederate Major-General E. KIRBY SMITH, to Union Army Brigadier General S. P. Carter.

All of those men escaped the gallows. In the few months that had passed since the bridges had been burned in November of 1861, some slight moderation in the earlier strong feeling, had taken place. The fact that no Federal invasion had occurred as expected, left the Confederate high command a little more comfortable among the pro-Union population of East Tennessee.

A review of Union army dispatches transmitted during the fall of 1861, just after the attempt to burn the East Tennessee railroad bridges, sheds considerable light on the desperate plight of those who had taken part in the plan.

Union army Brigadier General S. P. CARTER, one of the organizers of the bridge-burning plot, sent the following message to Brigadier General George H. Thomas in Danville, Kentucky, on November 24, 1861: "*We have arrivals every day from East Tennessee. The condition of affairs there is sad beyond description and if the loyal people who love and cling to the Government are not soon relieved they will be lost.*"

Union army Major General GEORGE B. MC CLELLAN pointedly tried to prod Brigadier General D. C. Buell into moving into East Tennessee, to fulfill the commitment that had been made. On November 27, 1861, McClellan sent the following dispatch to Buell: "*GENERAL: What is the reason for concentration of troops at Louisville? I urge movement at once on Eastern Tennessee unless it is impossible. No letter from you for several days. Reply. I still trust to your judgement though urging my own views.*"

On November 29th, MC CLELLAN again contacted Buell in another dispatch which read:

" I think we owe it to our Union friends in Eastern Tennessee to protect them at all hazards. First secure that; then if you possess the means carry Nashville."

Again, on December 3rd, MC CLELLAN writes Buell: *"If you gain and retain possession of Eastern Tennessee you will have won brighter laurels than any I hope to gain."*

On December 7th, ANDREW JOHNSON and HORACE MAYNARD sent a joint communication to General Buell, which implored: *"Our people are oppresd and pursued as beasts of the forest. The Government must come to their relief. We are looking to you with anxious solicitude to move in that direction. "*

A communication sent from BUELL to General McClellan on December 10th, shows that all the previous dispatchs sent to Buell had fallen on deaf ears. Buell wrote the following to McClellan:

" I have no means been unmindful of your wishes in regard to East Tennessee and I think I can both appreciate and unite in your sympathy for a people who have shown so much constancy. That constancy will sustain them until the hour of deliverance. I have no fear of their being crushed. The allegiance of such people to hated rulers even if it could be enforced for the moment will only make them the more determined and ready to resist when the hour of rescue comes."

Even after one hundred and thirty-five years, it is still sad to realize that the Union men of Pottertown had literally laid their life on the line and then ended up being at the mercy of such bureaucratic bungling, as is illustrated in this reply.

Even President Abraham Lincoln seems to have been powerless in dealing with Buell's stupidity...and ...or arrogance, as will be seen in the following exchanges.

WASHINGTON, January 4, 1862

General BUELL:

Have arms gone forward for East Tennessee? Please tell me the progress and condition of the movement in that direction. ANSWER.

A. LINCOLN

The following reply from BUELL to Lincoln, and LINCOLN'S return communication to Buell, probably illustrates about as well as it is possible to do so..... the absolute futility which the East Tennesse bridge-burners were faced with from the beginning.....only they were not aware of it!!

LOUISVILLE, Ky., January 5, 1862

To the PRESIDENT:

Arms can only go forward for East Tennessee under the protection of an army. My

*organization of the troops has had in view two columns with reference to that movement: a division to move from Lebanon, and a brigade to operate offensively or defensively according to circumstances on the Cumberland Gap route. * * * While my preparations have had this movement constantly in view I will confess to your excellency that I have been bound to it more by sympathy for the people of East Tennessee and the anxiety with which you and the general-in-chief have desired it than by my opinion of its wisdom as an unconditional measure. As earnestly as I wish to accomplish it my judgement has from the first been decidedly against it if it should render at all doubtful the success of a movement against the great power of the rebellion in the West which is mainly arrayed on the line from Columbus to Bowling Green and can speedily be concentrated at any point of that line which is attacked singly.*

D. C. BUELL

LINCOLN'S reply:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, January 6, 1862

Brigadier-General BUELL:

*MY DEAR SIR: Your dispatch of yesterday has been received and it disappoints and distresses me. * * * My distress is that our friends in East Tennessee are being hanged and driven to despair and even now I fear are thinking of taking rebel arms for the sake of personal protection. In this we lose the most valuable stake we have in the South. My dispatch to which yours is an answer was sent with the knowledge of Senator Johnson and Representative Maynard of East Tennessee and they will be upon me to know the answer which I cannot safely show them. They would despair; possibly resign to go and save their families somehow or die with them. I do not intend this to be an order in any sense but merely as intimated before to show you the grounds of my anxiety.*

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Greene County TNGenWeb page copyrighted by

[Bridgett Schneider](#)

All Rights Reserved

© 1996 – 2003

Permission by Donahue Bible 7-3-06.

www.memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/0?cwar:86:/temp/ammem_BJ60

Digital ID: cwpb 02145 **Source:** digital file from original neg. of left half
[Retrieve higher resolution JPEG version](#) (237 kilobytes)
[Retrieve uncompressed archival TIFF version](#) (24 megabytes)



Additional versions and related images

[Knoxville, Tenn., vicinity. Military bridge at Strawberry Plains and a fort in the distance, seen from north bank of the Holston].

[Barnard, George N., 1819-1902](#), photographer.

CREATED/PUBLISHED

[1864 March]

SUMMARY

Photograph of the War in the West. These photographs are of the Siege of Knoxville, November-December 1863. The difficult strategic situation of the Federal armies after Chicamauga enabled Bragg to detach a force under Longstreet which aimed to drive Burnside out of East Tennessee and did shut him up in Knoxville, which he defended successfully. These views, taken after Longstreet's withdrawal on December 3, include one of Strawberry Plains, which was on his line of retreat. Here we have part of an army record; Barnard was photographer of the chief engineer's office, Military Division of the Mississippi, and his views were transmitted with the report of the chief engineer of Burnside's army, April 11, 1864.

NOTES

The fort, formerly identified as Fort Stanley, appears to be at Strawberry Plains. (cf negative

Reference: Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 / compiled by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge, Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress, 1977. No. **0686**

Title from Milhollen and Mugridge.

Two plates form left (LC-B811-2668A) and right (LC-B811-2668B) halves of a stereograph pair.

Forms part of Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 (Library of Congress)



[Barnard, George N., 1819-1902](#), photographer.

CREATED/PUBLISHED

[1864?]

SUMMARY

Photograph of the War in the West. These photographs are of the Siege of Knoxville, November-December 1863. The difficult strategic situation of the Federal armies after Chicamauga enabled

Bragg to detach a force under Longstreet which aimed to drive Burnside out of East Tennessee and did shut him up in Knoxville, which he defended successfully. These views, taken after Longstreet's withdrawal on December 3, include one of Strawberry Plains, which was on his line of retreat. Here we have part of an army record; Barnard was photographer of the chief engineer's office, Military Division of the Mississippi, and his views were transmitted with the report of the chief engineer of Burnside's army, April 11, 1864.

NOTES

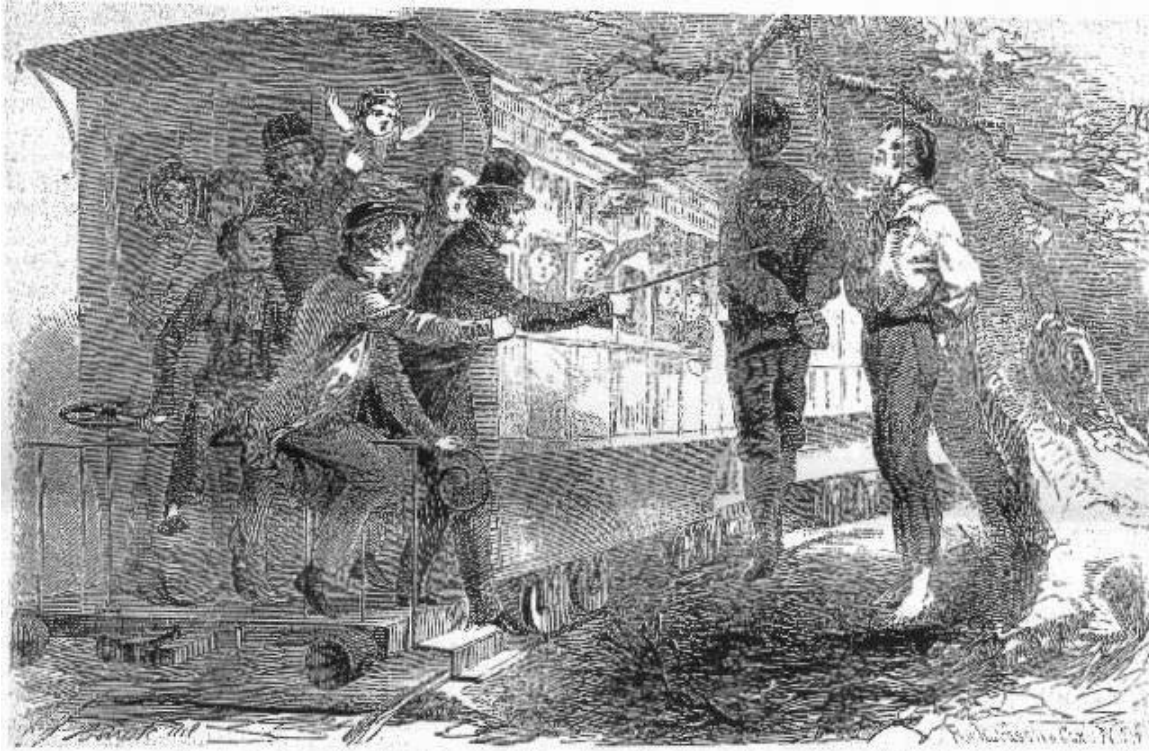
Reference: Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 / compiled by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge, Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress, 1977. No. **0687**

Title from Milhollen and Mugridge.

Two plates form left (LC-B811-2665A) and right (LC-B811-2665B) halves of a stereograph pair.

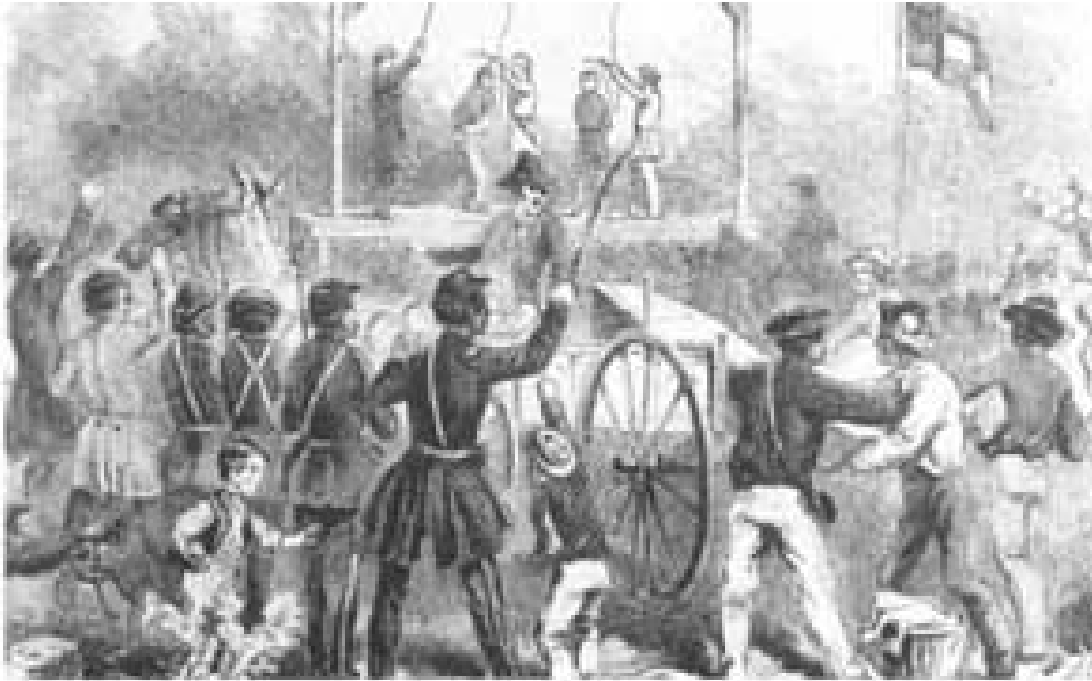
Forms part of Selected Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 (Library of Congress)

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hinshaw/h03549a.jpg>



After Henry Fry and Jacob Madison "Matt" Hinshaw were hanged near the railway depot in Greenville (above), Colonel Darville Leadbetter ordered their bodies to remain on display as a warning to other would-be traitors to the South.

<http://www.tngenweb.org/greene/sources/sources.htm>

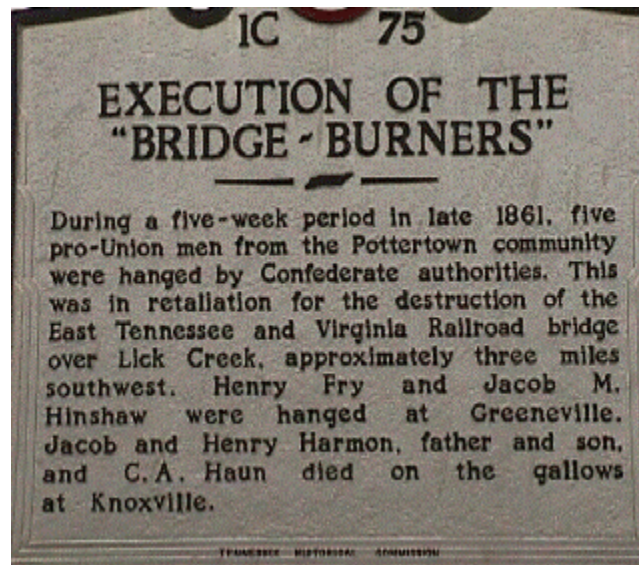


*The executions of Jacob Harmon, Jr., and
his son Henry, at Knoxville, Tennessee,
December 17, 1861*

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngreene/pbb003.html>

Historical Marker for the "Bridge-Burners"

One hundred and thirty-five years after the five "Pottertown" "Bridge-Burners" were hanged, the Tennessee Historical Commission voted to erect a historic marker near the old "Pottertown" settlement, in honor of the five men, who gave their lives for the Union cause, in the first months of the Civil War.



The marker is located beside the eastbound lanes of U.S. Highway 11E, about one mile east of Mohawk Crossroads. The marker stands on land once owned by the Harmon family, who lost two members in the 1861 executions. The location of the marker is about one-half mile northwest of the Harmon family cemetery at "Pottertown". The United States flag which now flies over the cemetery, can be seen from the marker.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngreene/pbb003.html>

The photocopy shown below is an original "broadside" issued to the people of East Tennessee, by Confederate Brigadier General Felix K. Zollicoffer, on August 7, 1861. The notice warned that "Treason to the State cannot, will not be tolerated". This was a thinly veiled threat of the consequences to be expected in retaliation for such acts as bridge-burning. The "Pottertown" bridge-burners placed their confidence in the promises of "protection" made to them at high levels of the United States Government.

TO THE PEOPLE OF EAST TENNESSEE!

BRIGADE HEAD QUARTERS, Knoxville, August 7th, 1861.

In assuming command of the military forces of this division, I cannot forbear an earnest appeal to all who have preferred the old Union, no longer to resist the recent decisions at the ballot-box by overwhelming majorities of the people of Tennessee. The military authorities are not here to offend or injure the people, but to insure peace to their homes, by repelling invasion and preventing the introduction of the horrors of civil war. Treason to the State cannot, will not be tolerated. But perfect freedom of the ballot-box has and will be accorded; and no man's rights, property, or privileges, shall be disturbed. All who desire peace can have peace, by quietly and harmlessly pursuing their lawful avocations. But Tennessee, having taken her stand with her sister States of the South, her honor and safety require that no aid shall be given within her borders to the arms of the tyrant Lincoln.

We have asked of the North a recognition of our political equality, and have been refused. We have asked for terms merely under which we could enjoy a sense of safety to our property and time-honored institutions, but in vain. Under such circumstances the States of the South resolved to submit no longer to long repeated and vexatious intermeddling with our rights. The North was deaf to justice, because they be-

lieved they had the power to crush us if we rebelled. With terrific threats they moved great armies upon us. Those armies have been driven back, with havoc and consternation. Heaven has smiled upon the South— blessing her with rich harvests and heroic sons. The North is already shaken as with a palsy—her late arrogant soldiers filled with apprehension—her late boasted revenues dwindled to a stern necessity for direct taxation. Can there be recreant sons of Tennessee who would strike at their brothers while thus struggling for Southern honor and independence? or who would invite the enemy over the border, to inaugurate war and desolation amid our own fair fields? There can be but few such. If any, it were better for their memory had they perished before such dishonor. Let not the Union men of the late contest at the ballot-box, among whom I personally know so many to be patriotic and true men, be carried along by excitement or passion into so deplorable an extreme. Though differing upon the late political questions, we are all Tennesseans. For the honor and glory of Tennessee let us be, as heretofore, shoulder to shoulder in battle, or peacefully at home, not sorrowing when victory perches on the standards of Tennessee regiments.

F. K. ZOLLICOFFER,

Brigadier General Commanding.

(This rare and previously unrecorded broadside is shown here through the courtesy of Mr. George E. Webb, Jr., of TENNESSEE BOOKS AND AUTOGRAPHS).
Sperry, J. Austin. The Tennessee Rebellion." Knoxville Daily Register. November 21, 1861,
111A: A2, page 2.

The Tennessee Rebellion.

The recent outbreak and lawless conduct of the traitors of East Tennessee deserve the most condign punishment at the hand of the Confederate authorities. They cannot be treated as enemies in the ranks of an invading foe, but as assassins and incendiaries with the knife and torch in hand. They should be hung and gibbeted wherever caught. Instead of sending them to Richmond in comfortable passenger cars, they should be sent to another country upon the end of a grape vine. This is the only way to treat those who are in open rebellion against our laws, and are applying the torch of the incendiary to our public works, obstructing the march of our troops, and the supplies of our armies.— They are not that open and manly foe, which is entitled to be regarded and treated according to the rules of civilized warfare. Had some of their leaders been hung long ago, the present state of things would not now embarrass our operations. Our policy towards them has been entirely too pacific. They have been permitted to concert treasonable measures with the enemy, and to drill troops in our midst, whose purpose it was to murder our people and overthrow our institutions. This ought never been tolerated for one moment. After a full and fair expression of opinion at the ballot-box, the laws of treason should have been enforced against every man of them who did not submit quietly to the decision of the people.

The Knoxville
Daily Register

Nov. 21, 1861

Vol. IIIA pg. 2

Editor:
Austin J. Sperry

Lesson Plan Outline

Unit: East Tennessee Railroads in the Civil War

Lesson title: Researching for information on The Bridge Burners of East Tennessee

Grade Level: Five – High School

Essential Question related to Vital Theme: Where can I find information on the Bridge Burners of East Tennessee?

Lesson time: Two forty-five minute lessons

Curriculum Standards (List):

5.1.spi.2. interpret how culture changes over time as a consequence of industrialization, technology or cultural diffusion (i.e., railroad transportation, telecommunication, building design, varied types of music and the growth of government services).

5.6.spi.2. use tools of social science inquiry such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents

Technology used and how: Internet connection to computer
Printer

Materials: Websites on Bridge Burners of East Tennessee

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

The teacher will discuss the Bridge Burners of East Tennessee with the students then assign them to find sites from the list that have good information on the topic and write a summary discussing the information available at each site. The students will also find a site not on the list and write a summary of the information available..

Primary Sources

- <http://www.rootswest.com/~tngreene/pbb001.html>
- <http://history-sites.com/mb/cw/cwflags/index.cgi?noframes;read=4024>
- <http://www.ipgbook.com/showbook.cfm?bookid=1570720614&userid=F1122B40-803F-2B7A-70185076060AAFAA>
- http://www.state.tn.us/environment/hist/PathDivided/east_tn.shtml
- <http://home.cinci.rr.com/secondtennessee/bridge.html>
- <http://www.discoveret.org/kcwrt/history/hk-text.htm>
- <http://www.famousamericans.net/samuelcarter/>
- <http://home.cinci.rr.com/secondtennessee/bridge.html>

Secondary Sources
Interactive Instructional Strategies

Supporting Assignments / Homework: Reading the secondary source books.

Assessment:

- Students will be graded ten points on each summary of the websites that contain good information on the topic.
- Students will be graded twenty points on the summary of an unlisted site for the topic.

Lesson Plan Outline

Unit: Tennessee Railroads in the Civil War

Lesson title: Mapping Railroads in TN 1861-1862

Grade Level: Four - Eight

Essential Question related to Vital Theme: How did the Railroad affect the three regions of Tennessee?

Lesson time: Forty-five minutes

Curriculum Standards (List):

5.1.spi.2. Interpret how culture changes over time as a consequence of industrialization, technology or cultural diffusion (i.e., railroad transportation, telecommunication, building design, varied types of music and the growth of government services).

5.3.spi.5. Identify the physical and political boundaries of Tennessee.

5.3.spi.7. Recognize and compare landforms, climate, and natural resources of the three grand divisions of Tennessee.

5.6.spi.2. Use tools of social science inquiry such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents.

Technology used and how: Computer to TV/Overhead connection. The lesson includes maps that can be placed on the TV or Overhead through the computer. If you do not have this technology you can make a transparency of the maps.

Materials: Map of Railroads in Tennessee 1850
Map of Railroads in Tennessee 1860
Map with three grand divisions of Tennessee.
Blank Map of Tennessee for each student.

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

- The teacher will present the overhead or TV view of the Railroads in Tennessee in 1850. The students will be handed the blank map of Tennessee. They will draw the railroads found in Tennessee in 1850 with a red pen.
- The teacher will present the overhead or TV view of Railroads in Tennessee in 1860. The students will draw the railroads added by 1860 to the map in blue pen.
- The teacher will present the three grand divisions of Tennessee overhead or TV view. The teacher will then ask the students to divide the state of Tennessee by the three grand divisions.

- The students will be asked to write a summary of the differences found in the three grand divisions; in relation to the number of railroads, access to major waterways, and access to other states.

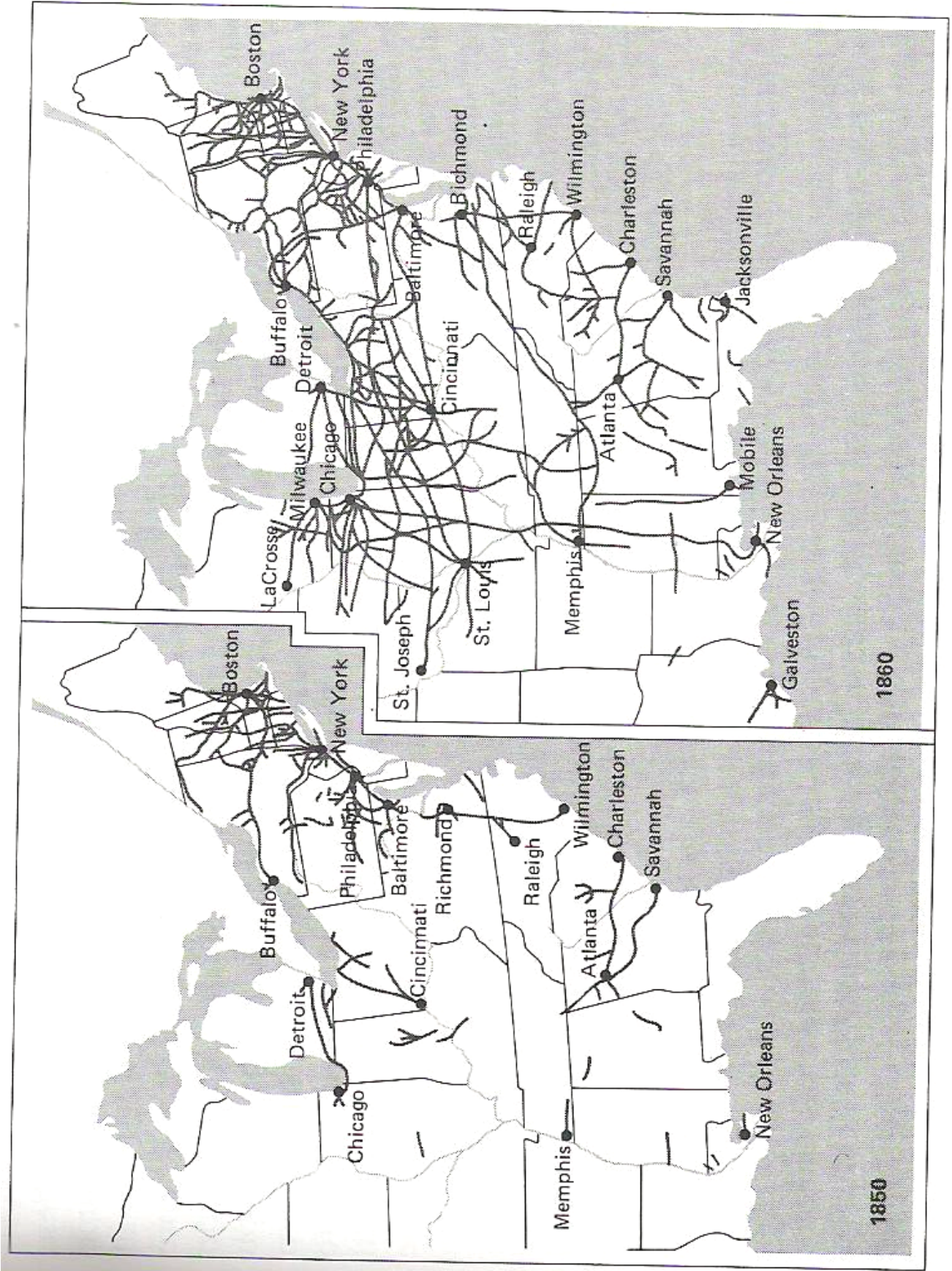
Primary Sources Map of Railroads in Tennessee 1850
 Map of Railroads in Tennessee 1860

Secondary Sources Map with three grand divisions of Tennessee.
 Blank Map of Tennessee for each student.

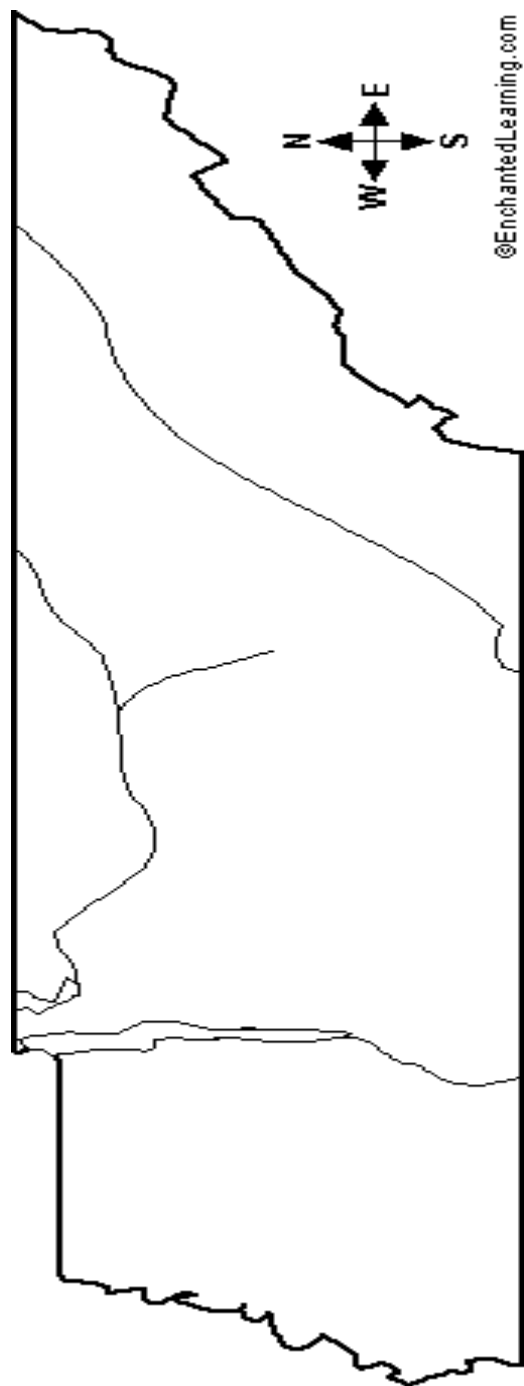
Supporting Assignments / Homework: Students will be allowed to take the assignment home to complete the written section. Students will be allowed to use their Social Studies textbook, map, atlas, etc.

Assessment: Students will be graded on the accuracy of the railroads drawn onto the map:

- 25 points for 1850 railroads
- 25 points for 1860 railroads
- 10 points for three grand divisions lines
- 40 points for the written section
 - 10 points differences found in the three grand divisions;
 - 10 points in relation to the number of railroads,
 - 10 points access to major waterways,
 - 10 points access to other states.



RAILROADS IN 1850 AND 1860



©EnchantedLearning.com

Lesson Plan Outline

Unit: East Tennessee Railroads in the Civil War

Lesson title: East Tennessee Railroads in Civil War PowerPoint

Grade Level: Four - Twelve

Essential Question related to Vital Theme: What contribution did East Tennessee Railroads make to the Civil War?

Lesson time: Forty-five minutes

Curriculum Standards (List):

5.5.spi.2. recognize military and nonmilitary leaders from the North and South during Civil War.

5.3.spi.7. recognize and compare landforms, climate, and natural resources of the three grand divisions of Tennessee.

5.5.spi.7. interpret a primary reading sample.

5.6.spi.2. use tools of social science inquiry such as surveys, statistics, maps, and documents.

5.6.spi.3. recognize situations requiring conflict resolution.

Technology used and how: Computer with TV. / overhead hookup

Disk with the lesson will be inserted into the computer and the teacher will move the slides at his/her own pace.

Materials: Power Point of Lesson
Computer
TV / Overhead capability

Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:

The teacher will discuss each slide with the students to promote understanding of the importance of Railroads in the Civil War especially in East Tennessee.

Primary Sources

Bible, Donahue. *Broken Vessels & East Tennessee Unionists in the Civil War*. Mohawk, TN. Schneider, Bridgett. 1861 Greene County TNGenWeb page copyrighted. *Aftermath of November 9th 1861*. © 1996-2003.

<http://www.genealogyforyou.com/usa/tennessee/greene/pbb003.html>
or <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tngreene/pbb003.html>.

Bob Amsler: *Railroads in the Civil War*. Gateway Division NMRR.
www.gatewaynmra.org/articles/civil-war1.htm. Feb. 8, 2003.

Hinshaw, Jan. The Hinshaw Family Association. Saratoga, CA.
<http://www.rawbw.com/~hinshaw/cgi-bin/id?a3549>

Secondary Sources

Judd, Cameron. *The Bridge Burners*. Johnson City, TN. Overmountain Press. 1995.

Piston, William G. *Carter's Raid*. Johnson City, TN. Overmountain Press. 1989.

Interactive Instructional Strategies

The teacher will present the slide show after the students have read *The Bridge Burners* and *Carter's Raid*. The teacher will have the students read and discuss each slide. The interaction between the slide show and the teacher/ students will increase student understanding of the bridge burnings in East Tennessee during the Civil War.

Supporting Assignments / Homework:

Read and discuss Carter's Raid and The Bridge Burners with the students before the slideshow. At the lower grade levels, the teacher should do this however, the older high school students could read it individually. The Carter's Raid book is hard to follow because it skips around. The Bridge Burners is an easy to understand book.

Assessment:

Students will take a pre and posttest over the material presented.
Students will also be challenged to discuss the various slides.

1) Pre / Post Test

1. Were the railroads important in East Tennessee during the Civil War?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

2. How many sections is Tennessee divided?
 - a. four
 - b. two
 - c. three

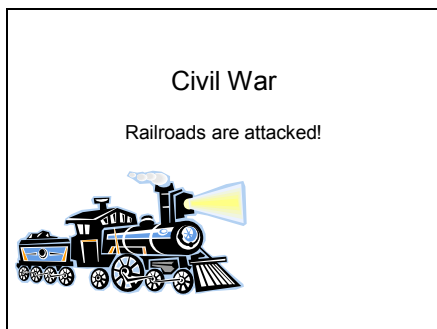
3. During the Civil War were there any railroads in East Tennessee?
 - a. yes
 - b. no

4. Who was the President of the United States during the Civil War?
 - a. Jefferson Davis

- b. Abraham Lincoln
 - c. George Washington
5. What year did the bridge burning of the Hiwassee River and Chickamauga Creek occur?
- a. 1865
 - b. 1862
 - c. 1861
6. Which army burned the bridges in East Tennessee in 1861?
- a. Union
 - b. Confederate
 - c. Federalists
7. Why did the bridge at Strawberry Plains not burn?
- a. They could not find the bridge.
 - b. They lost the matches.
 - c. The wood was too wet.
8. Who issued the command to the people of East Tennessee?
- a. Abraham Lincoln
 - b. General Lee
 - c. General Zillocoffer
9. What happened to the men caught burning the bridges?
- a. They were hanged.
 - b. They were sent to prison.
 - c. They were set free.
10. What happened to Jacob and Henry Harmon and C.A. Haun?
- a. They were hanged at Strawberry Plains.
 - b. They were hanged at Knoxville.
11. What did the Tennessee Historical Commission vote to do to honor the bridge burners?
- a. Put up a marker.
 - b. Gave their people money.
 - c. Wrote about them in the newspaper.
12. What three railroad sections did General Samuel Carter's troops destroy?
- a. Blountville, Carter's Depot, and Knoxville
 - b. Blountville, Carter's Depot, and Strawberry Plains
 - c. Blountville, Carter's Depot, and Union City
13. Was the President happy that the bridge burners had been killed?
- a. yes
 - b. no

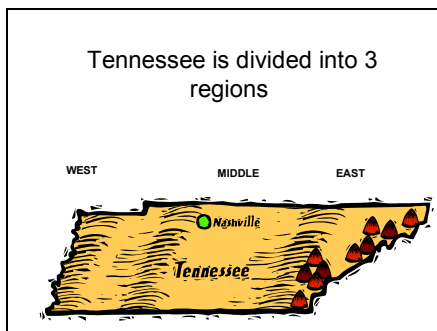
Slide Show Handout with notes not on slide show:

Slide 1



___ Tell students that they are about to learn about the importance of the railroads during the Civil War in East Tennessee. _____

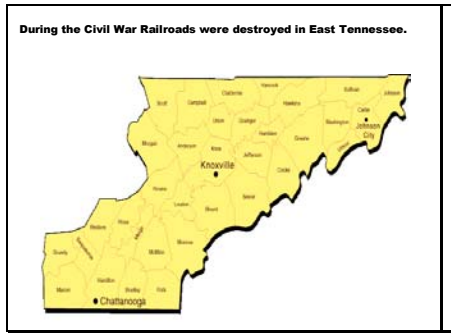
Slide 2



___ Students need to be told that Tennessee is divided into three sections, West, Middle, and East. The three grand divisions of Tennessee occur due to the rivers and mountains in TN. West Tennessee is bordered on the west by the Mississippi River and separated from Middle TN by the Tennessee River. Middle TN is bordered on the east by the Cumberland Mountains. East TN stretches from the Cumberland to the Appalachian Mountains. This division is mainly due to the rich flatlands perfect for large farms in the West and Middle and the rich river bottoms and valleys in East TN which is great for smaller farms. ___ Slavery was abundant in West and Middle but less

likely in the East.

Slide 3



The division of TN to the East was important due to the mountainous terrain in this section. Without the railroads in the East, troops would need to travel to the north to get to Richmond and to places in the south.

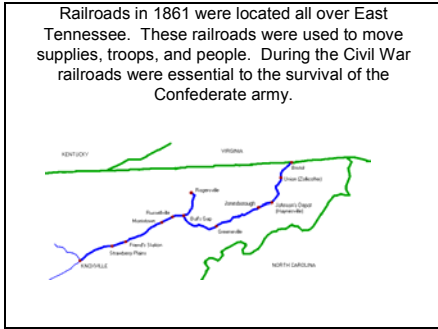
south.

Slide 4



___ This slide shows the states surrounding Tennessee. It demonstrates how TN was critical to the Union in that it was between the border states and the confederate states. This made TN critical for both the Union and the Confederates during the Civil War. Ownership of TN became the major fight.

Slide 5



___ This shows the importance of the railroad lines in East TN. You can see that they stretch from the North around Bristol to the South at Chattanooga.

Slide 6

Burning the Bridges

- On November 8, 1861 the Union army decided to overtake the Confederate army by destroying the railroad bridges in East Tennessee.
- Two bridges in Marion County, one on the Hiwassee River, and one on Chickamauga Creek were quickly burned.

____ Explains which bridges were to be burned.

Slide 7

The bridge at Strawberry Plains was not destroyed because the Union army lost their matches!



____ Picture of one of the railroad bridges.

This one is the bridge at Strawberry Plains, TN. _____

Slide 8

- The Loudon and Bridgeport bridges were heavily guarded, so the Union decided to leave them alone.



____ This bridge is from the Siege of Knoxville the bridge is on the Tennessee River around the Knoxville area.

Slide 9



Union General Zillocoffer issued this command that anyone caught destroying the railroad or railroad bridges in East Tennessee would be charged and hanged. This led to the hanging of the bridge burners. Colonel Danville Leadbetter used this as his confirmation that hanging was the desired outcome for anyone who destroyed the railroads.

Slide 10

- Colonel Danville Leadbetter and the Confederates captured the men who burned the bridges. Two were tried and hanged in Greenville, Tennessee near the train depot. Their names were
- Henry Fry
- Jacob Madison Hinshaw

Three of the men that burned the bridges were caught and two were hanged immediately. Two of the others were sent to Knoxville to be tried by the Department of War. They consisted of a father and son. The son was only 16 and was somewhat retarded in Leadbetter's thoughts. The fifth man was caught and all three were tried and hanged in Knoxville.

Slide 11



____ This is a drawing of the hanging of Fry and Hinshaw. It is not accurate because they could not hang them that close to the railroad tracks. They were hanged where everyone could see them and be aware of their fate if they attempted to do the same. _____

Slide 12

- The other three were captured and hanged in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- They were
- **Jacob and Henry Harmon** (father and son)
- **C.A. Haun**

____ The three other bridge burners. Notice that father and son were hung in Knoxville, TN. _____

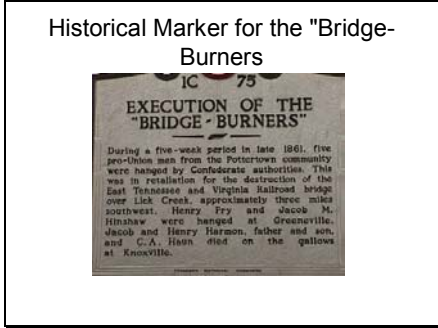
Slide 13

Bridge Burners Honored "

- One hundred and thirty-five years after the five "Pottertown" "Bridge-Burners" were hanged, the Tennessee Historical Commission voted to erect a historic marker near the old "Pottertown" settlement, in honor of the five men, who gave their lives for the Union cause, in the first months of the Civil War.

__ In memory of the bridge burners a memorial was made and placed at the spot they were hung.

Slide 14



___ This is the historical marker placed by the TN historical Commission near the place Fry and Hinshaw were hung.

Slide 15

Carter's Raid

- Late in December 1861 the Railroads were destroyed by General Samuel P. Carter's Union army.
- The unit with Carter's brother James as a division leader destroyed three sections of the East Tennessee Railroad.

___ This information comes from the *Carter's Raid* book. This information has to do with the Carter brother Samuel and James. They were also working along with another brother William, who had started the entire raid by writing to the Knoxville-Whig Newspaper and President Abraham Lincoln.

Slide 16

The railroad sections that were destroyed in East Tennessee were called

- Blountville
- Union (Bluff City)
- Carter's Depot

These railroad bridges were in important areas as that they were the farthest east. The railroads were destroyed to create a diversion, which would hopefully pull Confederate troops from the West and Middle TN areas where the main arena of the Civil War was taking place. This did work and help to get the Union in control in TN.

Slide 17

What you will see next:

- Historical letters or notes from President Abraham Lincoln and the Union leaders.



__ President Abraham Lincoln wrote to the commanders of the Union army. These letters or dispatches are important primary documents it understanding what happened in East TN during the Raids. _____


Slide 18

Union army Brigadier General S. P. CARTER, one of the organizers of the bridge-burning plot, sent the following message to Brigadier General George H. Thomas in Danville, Kentucky, on November 24, 1861:



This slide tells about the message that the students are about to see that came from General Carter to General Thomas concerning the bridge burning.

Slide 19




"We have arrivals every day from East Tennessee. The condition of affairs there is sad beyond description and if the Loyal people who love and cling to the Government are not soon relieved they will be lost. "

These words came from General Samuel Carter to General Danville in Kentucky describing the condition of the people in East TN during the events preceding the raid. _____


Slide 20

Union army Major General GEORGE B. MC CLELLAN pointedly tried to prod Brigadier General D. C. Buell into moving into East Tennessee, to fulfill the commitment that had been made. On November 27, 1861, McClellan sent the following dispatch to Buell:



This slide tells what the next slide will say Major General McClellan says in response to the letter from General Carter.

Slide 21



"What is the reason for concentration of troops at Louisville? I urge movement at once on Eastern Tennessee unless it is impossible. No letter from you for several days. Reply. I still trust to your judgment though urging my own views. "

_____ General McClellan and General Buell continued the discussion for several days before deciding what to do.


Slide 22

- On November 29th, MC CLELLAN again contacted Buell in another dispatch which read:
" I think we owe it to our Union friends in Eastern Tennessee to protect them at all hazards. First secure that; then if you possess the means carry Nashville."
- Again, on December 3rd, MC CLELLAN writes Buell: *"If you gain and retain possession of Eastern Tennessee you will have won brighter laurels than any I hope to gain."*
- On December 7th, ANDREW JOHNSON and HORACE MAYNARD sent a joint communication to General Buell, which implored: *"Our people are oppressed and pursued as beasts of the forest. The Government must come to their relief. We are looking to you with anxious solicitude to move in that direction."*

_ More of the discussion before deciding what should be done

Slide 23

WASHINGTON, January 4, 1862
 General BUELL:
Have arms gone forward for East Tennessee? Please tell me the progress and condition of the movement in that direction. ANSWER.



A. LINCOLN

- The following reply from BUELL to Lincoln..... the absolute futility which the East Tennessee bridge-burners were faced with from the beginning.....only they were not aware of it!!

_ Finally a reply from President Lincoln, but no answer to the situation.

Slide 24

LOUISVILLE, Ky., January 5, 1862
 TO THE PRESIDENT:

- *Arms can only go forward for East Tennessee under the protection of an army. My organization of the troops has had in view two columns with reference to that movement: a division to move from Lebanon, and a brigade to operate offensively or defensively according to circumstances on the Cumberland Gap route. **

_ Buell writes again to the President.

Slide 25

- *While my preparations have had this movement constantly in view I will confess to your excellency that I have been bound to it more by sympathy for the people of East Tennessee and the anxiety with which you and the general-in-chief have desired it than by my opinion of its wisdom as an unconditional measure.*

_____ Buell was still unsure of the situation.


Slide 26

- *As earnestly as I wish to accomplish it my judgment has from the first been decidedly against it if it should render at all doubtful the success of a movement against the great power of the rebellion in the West which is mainly arrayed on the line from Columbus to Bowling Green and can speedily be concentrated at any point of that line which is attacked singly.*

D.C. BUELL

_____ General Buell finally decides that it might be better to concentrate on that area.

Slide 27




LINCOLN'S reply:
EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, January 6, 1862

- *Brigadier-General BUELL: MY DEAR SIR: Your dispatch of yesterday has been received and it disappoints and distresses me. My distress is that our friends in East Tennessee are being hanged and driven to despair and even now I fear are thinking of taking rebel arms for the sake of personal protection. In this we lose the most valuable stake we have in the South.*

_____ Lincoln did not think that this would be fair to the people of East TN, but left the decision to the General Buell.

Slide 28



- *My dispatch to which yours is an answer was sent with the knowledge of Senator Johnson and Representative Maynard of East Tennessee and they will be upon me to know the answer which I cannot safely show them. They would despair; possibly resign to go and save their families somehow or die with them. I do not intend this to be an order in any sense but merely as intimated before to show you the grounds of my anxiety.*
Yours very truly,
- A. LINCOLN.

Lincoln was worried about Senator Johnson and Representative Maynard of East TN. He felt that if the raid began they would feel that they had to protect their families. However, Lincoln did not tell Buell to stop the raid. The raid went on successfully. Many men died but the result was that the Union succeeded in winning TN. _____

Slide 29

The End

