

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

**Vital theme of the unit:** The Civil War

**Author and contact information:** Jeff Bird  
Greenback School  
Greenback, Tennessee

**Grade level:** Fifth Grade

**Number of lessons in the unit:** Two lessons

**Time needed to complete unit:** Two to Four days

**Curriculum standards addressed:** 3.01 Understand how to use maps, globes, and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a special perspective.

**Technology used:** Overhead projector, computers, Internet access

### **Unit introduction and overview of instructional plan:**

The following introductory questions will be asked:

1. What was the Civil War like for those fighting for the Union and those fighting for the Confederacy?
2. What were the battles of Chattanooga, Tennessee and the battles of Chickamauga, Georgia like for those that fought in them.

This unit was developed to help teach map interpretation skills to fifth grade students. It is also a small section of a larger unit over the Civil War. The students will have participated in previous lessons discussing various aspects of the Civil War. This unit also covers Tennessee's and Georgia's role in the Civil War and gives students a personal view of what the fighting was like for those that fought and survived these two battles. By participating in this unit and its activities the students will have the following: a better understanding of how to read and interpret a map, read and comprehend personal letters from the Civil War era. Once the students have completed this unit they will be required to present their findings and will be required to write a brief summary of this activity. This unit should last a total of two to four days but can be modified or extended as needed.

The power of a personal letter or diary can offer great insight into the heart and mind of an individual. This is that case in James M. McPherson's book, What They Fought For 1861-1865. Through study of diaries, journals, and letters, McPherson seeks to reveal the true reason why many young men fought in the Civil War. McPherson does a wonderful job of researching these personal letters to help us take a step back into the nineteenth century. After reading this book, one gets a feel for why the average young man would chose to fight in the war. Many years of bickering between the North and the South over what to do with slavery had led to many threats being made from both sides of the issue. As Bruce Catton states in his book entitled The Civil War , "There had been many woeful misunderstandings between the North and South in the years that led up to the Civil War, but the most tragic misunderstanding of all was that neither side realized, until it was too late, that the other side was desperately in earnest. Not until the war had actually begun would men see that their rivals really meant to fight. By that time it was too late to do anything but go on fighting"(Catton, page 23). For those who fought for the Union and those who fought for the Confederate, the Civil War was a life changing experience.

One may ask, if both the North and the South had been arguing over this issue of slavery for many years, why then would an average young man choose to fight in this bloody war? For an answer to this question one need look no further than the personal journals, letters, and diaries of the Civil War soldier. As many young Confederate soldiers often revealed in their personal letters to relatives, they felt as though they were fighting to protect their homeland and to resist being conquered by the North. Many likened themselves to those who had fought in the Revolutionary War against England. After suffering several defeats, one Georgia captain in the Army of Northern Virginia wrote, "But let us not despair... We must put forth even greater energy-resolve more fully to conquer or die. Our forefathers were whipped in nearly every battle

& lost their capital & yet after seven years of trials and hardships achieved their independence” (McPherson, 10). Other Confederate soldiers shared similar feeling on the issue of why they were fighting. One soldier fighting with the 44<sup>th</sup> Virginia wrote to his father and described this war as “a struggle between Liberty on one side, and Tyranny on the other” (McPherson, 11). Ironically, those fighting for the Union Army also felt as though they were fighting to protect the liberties and freedoms gained by the forefathers in the Revolutionary War. McPherson quotes one Union soldier from Michigan who damned, “Traitors who sought to tear down and break into fragments the glorious temple that our forefathers reared with blood and tears” (McPherson, 28).

After reading What They Fought For, one may ask, what impact did this fighting have on the lives of those fighting for the Confederacy and those fighting for the Union? After researching the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, and reading personal journals and letters from soldiers that participated in these battles, the answers to this question are quite clear. In a transcribed letter written by Union Sergeant Edward Summers of Company K. Kentucky Calvary Regiment, to his cousin Arthur Johnson, Edwards describes the horrible conditions in Georgia he witnessed shortly after the battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Edwards says, “And Oh God, Oh God, the Scenes I have witnessed. I have witnessed Some Dark and horrible Scenes Such has made my blood Run Cold. I have Seen men hung Like Dogs in Cold Blood. I have Seen men Shot Down Like Brutes in Cold blood” (Summers, 1863). Edwards further elaborates on the horrible conditions that he witnessed on the battlefield:

I have Seen the flaming innumerable Scenes of Disgust. I have Seen the Rich made poor in a few Short hours. I have Seen Enough of the Horrors of War to Satisfy me and to Satisfy my mind that a Civil War Will Ruin any Nation under the Canopy of Heavens. It

will Ruin all Classes of mankind. The Whole World is Demoralized at this time and I have underwent all the hardships, Perils and privations that Belongs to a Soldiers Life. I have went though frost and snow, through Rain and mud as well as the scorching heat and bore it all as becomes a soldier (Edward Summers, personal communications, November 2, 1863).

It is obvious from this letter that the Civil War was a life- altering experience for these young men. Many of these experiences would forever remain with them. In his letter Sergeant Summers continued his horrible description of the battlefield at Chickamauga, Georgia:

But the most Horrible Sight is the Battlefield yet. If you Could have Been present and of looked Over the Battlefield after the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia and of Seen the Thousands upon thousands of Dead, Dying, and mangled Masses of Human Souls weltering in their Blood it would of Chilled Every Drop of Blood in your Veins. The Whole face of memorable Battle By the Enemies fatal Ball and their Bones are left to Bleach upon the Georgia Plains. I am very Sorry to Inform you that Our Dead were Not Buried. The Enemy took the field and held it. Our loss is Estimated at fifteen thousand and the Enemies at twenty-eight thousand- - a Large Number if Souls to fall in One Battle and yet the War is Not at a Close. (Edward Summers, personal communications, November 2, 1863)

For the Confederate soldier things seemed a little different. In his personal diary, General E.H. Rennolds describes his experiences during the battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee. “I expected I would be afraid but the firing soon brought on the old battle feeling and I heeded it not”(Civil War Diary Rennolds, personal communications, May 18, 1861 through January 1, 1862). For this Confederate soldier the fighting seemed to be heavy at times, but he was ready.

On the morning of September twentieth, Rennolds described the death of one of his fellow soldiers, “He was a clever boy, a brave soldier and liked by all. He was borne away and lived long enough to say he would die but he would be better off”(Civil War Diary Rennolds, personal communications, May 18, 1861 through January 1, 1862).

It is obvious from these personal journals that fighting was brutal on both sides of the war. Historians have written numerous books on the major turning point of the Civil War and the reason for the Confederates losing the war. One of the major reasons for the downfall of the Confederacy was the costly removal of General Joseph E. Johnston. In his book Bruce Catton described this tragic decision to remove Johnston and replace him with General John Bell Hood. Hood had proven himself as a successful soldier; however was not ready for this major role in the war:

Hood was a combat soldier of proved effectiveness. He had commanded a brigade and then a division of Lee’s army, fighting with great dash and valor; had been badly wounded in the arm at Gettysburg, had recovered in time to fight at Chickamauga, and there had lost a leg. Patched up, riding strapped to his saddle, he had been bitterly critical of Johnston’s series of feints and retreats. He understood stand-up fighting, and now Davis wanted a stand-up fighter and gave Hood Johnston’s job. Unfortunately, Hood was suited for subordinate command but not for the top job. The transfer worked to Sherman’s immense advantage (Catton, page 219).

After the downfall of Atlanta, the destructive attacks on the Shenandoah Valley, and other victories such as David Farragut’s victory in Mobile, Alabama it quickly became clear that the Confederate Army had reached its end and that the war would soon be over. The attitude of

the South had also changed as well. Southern soldiers were running low on supplies and fatigue had set in. The South had its gut full of this war. The Union Army led by General Sherman continued its destructive “March to the Sea Campaign”. Marching through Atlanta and into Savannah and then on up to South Carolina, Sherman’s troops completely destroyed the railroads, crops, cities, homes, etc. Marching through South Carolina, Sherman’s men laid ruin to everything they could get their hands on. This was the ultimate blow to the Confederates’ desire to continue the fighting. In Virginia General Grant continued to chase General Lee’s troops, constantly attacking and wearing down Lee’s army with the help of General Sheridan. Catton states:

The end came on April 9, at a little town named Appomattox Court House. Federal cavalry and infantry had gotten across Lee’s line of march, other powerful forces were on his flank, and a huge mass of infantry was pressing on his rear. He had no chance to get in touch with Johnston, no chance to continue his flight toward the west, no chance to put up a fight that would drive his foes out of the way; Lee had fewer than 30,000 soldiers with him by now, and not half of these were armed and in usable military formation. The rest were worn-out men who were pathetically doing their best to stay with the army, but who could not this day be used in battle (Catton, page 258).

On this day General Lee chose to surrender and put an end to this bloody war. After Lee’s surrender to General Grant the end of the Civil War was close at hand and the new task of rebuilding the country lie ahead.

At the close of the war, many in the North wanted to punish the Southerners for their actions, however; President Lincoln ordered his generals to offer liberal terms of surrender to those of the Southern army. Lincoln hoped to see these men of the Confederate Army return to

their farms and businesses and help mend the country. Lincoln wanted his generals not to worry about the political aspects of the war but to let him handle these issues. On April 14 these hopes of a peaceful mending were crushed when John Wilkes Booth shot and killed President Lincoln at Ford's Theater. With Lincoln dead, those that wanted to punish the South for its rebellion were now in control and reconstruction would be very difficult for those living in the South.

After reading the personal journals, diaries, and letters of those that fought in the Civil War, one begins to understand just how life altering this war was on those living at the time. It is through these personal letters, journals, and diaries that the true Civil War is brought to life. For the Southern soldier, the sense of defending the homeland from the Northern invaders is accurately presented in his letters back home. For the Northern soldier the sense of defending the Union, the Constitution, and crushing the rebellion is brought to life. Interestingly enough, however, both sides felt they were protecting the very rights the forefathers of this country had fought and died for in the Revolutionary War. These journals, diaries, and letters help bring the Civil War to life for the average soldier on either side of the issue.

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

### A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier: The Battle of Chickamauga As Seen From a Union Soldier

**Grade:** Fifth Grade

**Number of lessons in the unit:** Two lessons

**Essential Question related to Vital Theme:** What was the battle of Chickamauga like for the Union Soldier?

**Lesson Time:** One to two days depending on age level

**Curriculum standards addressed:** 3.01 Understand how to use maps, globes, and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process and report information from a special perspective.

**Technology used:** Overhead projector, computers, Internet access

**Materials:**

- Map of Chickamauga battlefield and map of the United States during the Civil War  
(For a detailed map of Chickamauga go to:  
<http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/1863t8.jpg>)  
(For a detailed map of the US during the Civil War go to:  
[http://www.culturalresources.com/MP\\_Century32.html](http://www.culturalresources.com/MP_Century32.html))
- Copy transcribed letter from Edward Summers  
(Can be found at <Http://www.lib.utk.edu/spcoll/manuscripts/2714.htm>)
- Markers or crayons

#### **Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:**

1. Hand out maps of the United States during the Civil War and map of the battlefield of Chickamauga, Georgia.
2. Hand out transcribed letter from Edward Summers. Explain that this letter is from an actual Union soldier whom fought in the Civil War.
3. Have the students either read the letter aloud or silently.
4. Divide the students into groups of two to four then have the groups take out the Summers letter along with their copy of the United States during the Civil War. As the students reread this letter they are to label on the map each of the following:



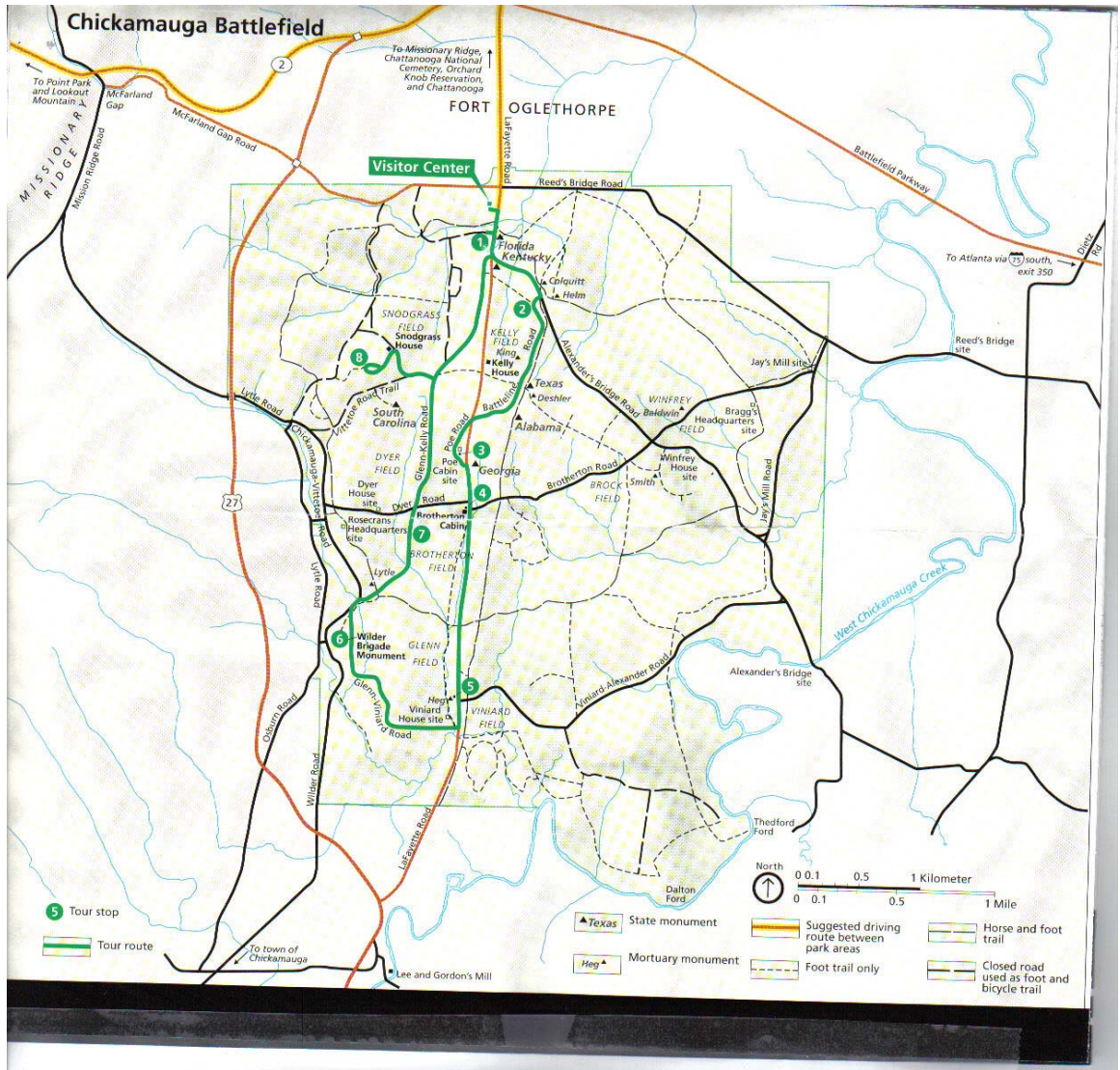
- All of the places Mr. Summers had traveled to during the Civil War
- All rivers which must be labeled in blue
- Battles or skirmishes mentioned in the letter which should be indicated with a red “X” ●Present day major cities should be marked with a black dot

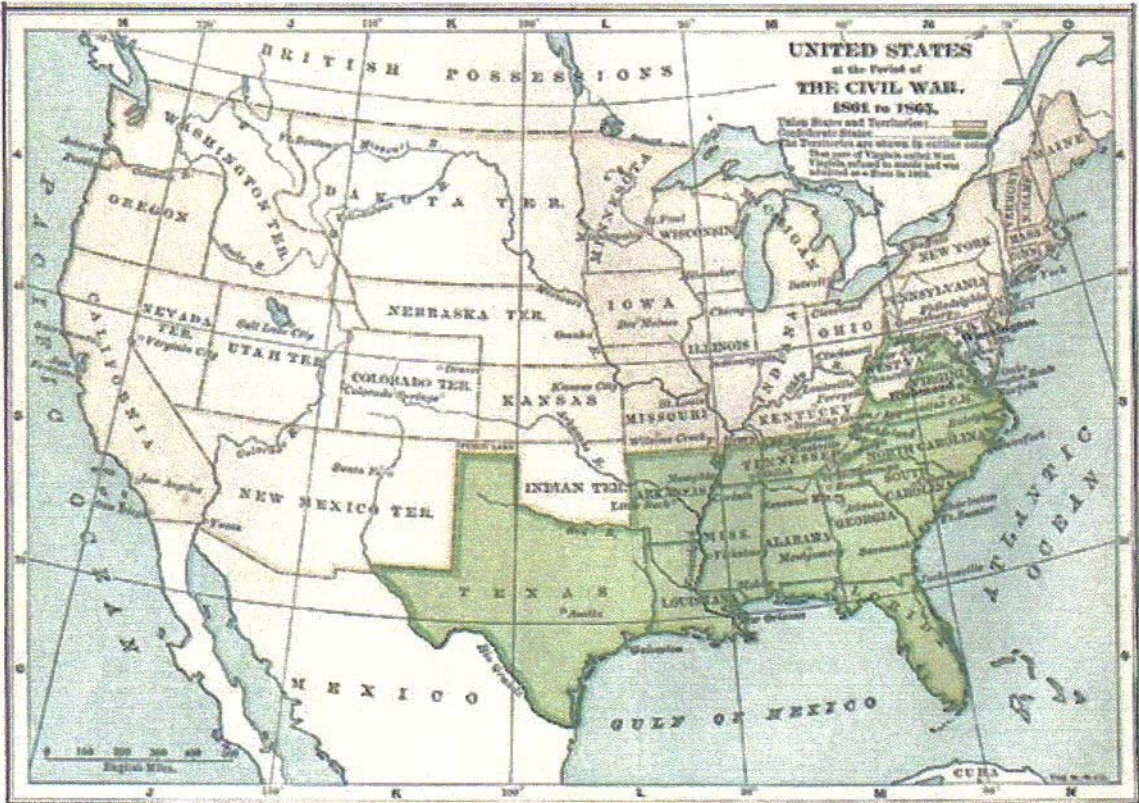
5. Students may need to use the Internet to research the exact location of the places mentioned in the Summers letter.

6. After the students have completed this activity they will then select one of the battles or skirmishes mentioned in the letter and will write a half page report on this skirmish.

**Supporting Assignments/Homework:** If students are unable to complete this assignment in one class period, additional time maybe granted for extra research. Once the assignment is complete the students will be given time to present their maps and research in class.

**Assessment:** Once the students have completed this assignment, the skills learned in this activity will be graded in the final chapter test on the Civil War.







Edward Summers Letter, 1863

**Transcription of Letter:**

Winchester, Tennessee

November 2nd, 1863

Mr. Arthur Johnson,

Dear Cousin, After my very best Love to you, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson and your Little Offspring, I again take my pen in hand for the fourth time Without and Answer to Let you know that I am Still On the Land amongst the Living. I can again Say I am Well and hope these few Lines may find you all Enjoying [the] Same Blessing. Peter Mann, Frank Trueax, F. W. Asbury, Alexander Curtis and all of Our Bracken Boys are well and Hearty. I have But Little News of Interest at this time. Everything appears quiet Except Occasional Skirmishes in the front and a few Guerilla Bands through Tennessee. We have Been Expecting a heavy Battle for some two Weeks but it seems as if Bragg is inclined to fall Back. It may be his Object is to draw Our Troops away from Chattanooga. I am Not With my Regiment at this time and I have a bad Chance of Gathering Information. I am One of the Guards With the 1st Cav. Division's Ordnance trains and it is here at Winchester, Tenn. Where it may in all probability Remain for Several Weeks. My Regiment and, in fact, My Whole Brigade is Encamped at Jeffers Ferry on the Tennessee River, 2 Miles South of Stevenson, Alabama. I expect to Remain with this train all Winter. It is an Easy position and my fare are good. My quarters are in a neat Little Train House Near the Public Square. I Can See all that is going on in town in the Day time and have as many Yellow girls in my Room at Night as I Wish. But Enough of this.

[page 2] I Will Now give you a Short Sketch of my travels Since I was at your house. When I left home I went by the Way of Cynthaana and Georgetown to Lexington, Ky. I Was then Ordered to Report at Point Pleasant in Virginia. I left Lexington on the 22nd of Last Oct. one year ago and passed through Paris, Millersburg, the Blue Licks, Washington and on to Maysville, Ky. There, I crossed the Ohio River to Aberdeen and

passed through Decatur, West Union, Salem, Jackson, Sciotoville, Lucasville, Gallipolis, and up to the River to the mouth of the Big Kanawha River. There, I Crossed the Ohio River into Point Pleasant, Virginia where I joined my Command. We Drove the Enemy through Charleston and Whipped them at Gauley Bridge and Drove them through Ashby's Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. We then Received Orders to Report at a point near Vicksburg, Mississippi. We Marched Back to Point Pleasant and there took Steam Boats to Cincinnati, Ohio. The Infantry went to Mississippi and Our Cavalry Was Ordered to Report at Lexington, Ky. We Bid adieu to the Queen City of the West and passed through Covington, Williamstown, Georgetown, and On to Lexington Where We Only Remained two Days to Rest from a Long and toilsome march of over 100 miles. We left Lexington, Ky., the Garden spot of the World with Heavy hearts and marched through Nicholasville, Perryville, Lebanon, Danville, Bloomfield, Springfield and on to Louisville, Ky. We Only Remained there a Day or two to Rest Our Jaded horses. There, we took the Cars and passed through many towns and Villages and though the Green River Country to Nashville, Tennessee, the Capitol of

[page 3]:the State. We traversed the State all Over and Over and Camped for a few Days at Brentwood, Franklin, Springhill, Shelbyville, Tullahoma, Triune, Murfreesboro, Winchester, Fayetteville and many other towns. After we had scourged Tennessee well we then marched all of Our Cavalry forces into Alabama. Our first trip was to take Huntsville, Ala., one of the finest towns I have Seen in Ala. We then took Stevenson and Bridgeport and many Other Little towns. The Enemy still held Chattanooga- it is Situated on the Tennessee River about 2 ½ miles from The Georgia State Line. Our next move was to take Chattanooga which we Done easily. We then made a Dashing Raid through Georgia tearing up the Railroad track, Burning Bridges and Depots and Cutting up hell in General. And, Oh God, Oh God, the Scenes I have witnessed. I have witnessed Some Dark and horrible Scenes Such as has made my Blood Run Cold. I have Seen men hung Like Dogs in Cold Blood. I have Seen men Shot Down Like Brutes in Cold Blood. I have Seen the flaming innumerable Scenes of



Disgust. I have Seen the Rich made poor in a few Short hours. I have Seen Enough of the Horrors of War to Satisfy me and to Satisfy my mind that a Civil War Will Ruin any Nation under the Canopy of Heaven. It will Ruin all Classes of mankind. The Whole World is Demoralized at this time and I have underwent all the hardships, Perils and privations that Belongs to a Soldiers Life. I have went through frost and snow, through Rain and mud as well as the scorching heat and bore it all

[page 4] as becomes a soldier. I have Nine Battles Besides a Number of Skirmishes and by the help of God am yet spared to tell the memorable tale of this Campaign. I have also Witnessed thousands and thousands of Most Beautiful Sceneries, both Natural and Strange, and was well Calculated to Interest the Weary Soldier as he passes by. But the most Horrible Sight is the Battlefield yet. If you Could have Been present and of looked Over the Battlefield after the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia and of Seen the Thousands upon thousands of Dead, Dying, and mangled Masses of Human Souls weltering in their Blood it would of Chilled Every Drop of Blood in your Veins. The Whole face of memorable Battle By the Enemies fatal Ball and their Bones are left to Bleach upon the Georgia Plains. I am very Sorry to Inform you that Our Dead were Not Buried. the Enemy took the field and held it. Our loss is Estimated at fifteen thousand and the Enemies at twenty-eight thousand--a Large Number of Souls to fall in One Battle and yet the War is Not at a Close. Well Arthur, I Shall have to Close for this time. Give my Love to all of the friends and Relations and Answer Immediately. Direct your Letter to Winchester, Tennessee in the Care of Capt. Wilson, A. Q. M., 1st Cav. Division and believe me to be Your Ever affectionate Cousin till Death,

Ewd. Summers

Please Send me a few Postage Stamps. I can't get them here.

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

### A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier: The Battle of Chattanooga As Seen From a Confederate Soldier

**Grade:** Fifth Grade

**Number of lessons in the unit:** Two lessons

**Essential Question related to Vital Theme:** What was the battle of Chattanooga like for the Confederate soldier?

**Lesson Time:** One to two days depending on age level

**Curriculum standards addressed:** 3.01 Understand how to use maps, globes, and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process and report information from a special perspective.

**Technology used:** Overhead projector, computers, Internet access

**Materials:**

- Map of Chattanooga battlefield during the Civil War  
(For a detailed map of Chattanooga go to:  
<http://www.dean.usma.edu/HISTORY/web03/atlasses/american%20civil%20war/acw%20pages/acw41.html>)
- Copy transcribed letter from E.H. Rennolds attached with this lesson
- Markers or crayons

#### **Activity description(s) and overview of instructional strategies:**

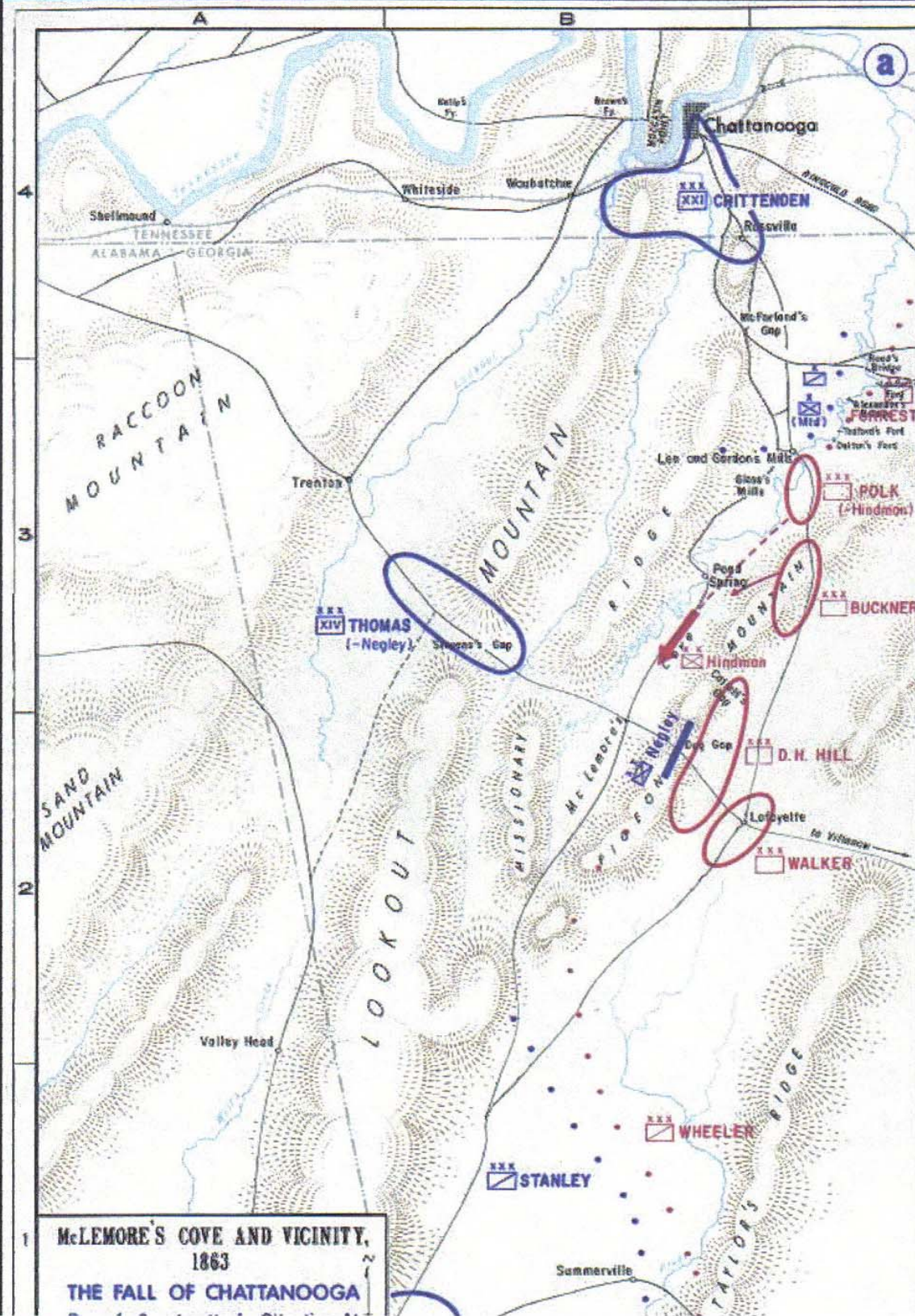
1. Hand out map of the battlefield of Chattanooga, Tennessee.
2. Hand out transcribed letter from E.H. Rennolds. Explain that this letter is from an actual Confederate soldier who fought in the battle of Chattanooga, Tennessee.
3. Have the students either read the letter aloud or silently paying special attention to Rennolds' recollection and detail of the battlefield.
4. Assign each student a partner and hand out copies of the Chattanooga battlefield map.
5. As the students read the accounts of the battle of Chattanooga, the students will locate on the battlefield map the locations Rennolds discussed in his journal.
6. After locating the battlefields and reading the descriptions, students will then write an extension of Rennolds' journal. They may take on the role of Rennolds, a fellow soldier, or even a Union soldier, and write their own account of the battle of Chattanooga or life during the Civil War era.

7. Upon completion of this journal activity, students will exchange their journals with fellow students and will then edit their partner's journal. Once these journals have been edited and revised, students will then prepare their journals for display.

**Supporting Assignments/Homework:** If students are unable to complete this assignment in one class period, additional time maybe granted for editing and revision of the Civil War journals. Once the assignment is complete the students will be given time to present their Civil War journals.

**Assessment:** Once the students have completed this assignment, the skills learned in this activity will be graded in the final chapter test on the Civil War.





97

Sept 19th

After sunup we moved on slowly to the Chicamauga, crossed it a mile below Gordon's Mill stacked arms, rested awhile and then double-quickened on in the direction of the fighting. Soon passed Hood's Div. of Longstreet's Corps. They say two others (Pickett's & McLaws) are or will be here. Hurrah for that. They are better dressed than we are by far soon met Cavalry filing to the rear and saw their wounded. After going a mile or two, we fronted, and advanced in line of battle, stray shells and even minie balls began to fly over, one of the latter wounding Coley of Co. E. Halting in the woods we were again moved across a field under fire, on the other side we saw stragglers, and Gen Smith, who cautioned us not to fire on his men. Without firing we were ordered back still under fire. W. C. Alexander of Co. A. Allen and Hagler of Co. I and Wilson of our Co. (D) were wounded and Lieut Webber of the 4th killed. Again advanced across the field and were fired on and again ordered back, while all were expecting to be allowed to fire. We lay down in the woods till about sundown when a heavy firing commenced on our right and we were advanced to the edge of the field, and Churchill's & Maney's Brigades sent to the right. It continued heavy until nearly dark when they were repulsed. But we lost the brave Brig. Gen. Preston Smith's. We placed out pickets (Capt Wards Co.) stacked arms and bivouacked. The battle has not been general, but hot and stubborn, most of the time. The hottest firing has been to the left, towards Gordon's Mill, where Longstreet is. Nothing decisive yet.



9

The 5th is not (as Generals say) eager for the fray, that is a humbug, but willing and not afraid to fight. After the first excitement was over they acted coolly, and advanced better than retreated. But few have played out. Maj. Hampton is assigned to duty and acts gallantly. He is a fine officer. Col. Lamb is cool. All the officers are brave and men too. I expected I would be afraid but the firing soon brought on the old battle feeling and I heeded it not.

Sept. 20th Sunday.

Everything was still for some time after morning, but it soon began right and left, and shells began to fly over thick, some falling short, some going over and one striking God Comer of Co. I. on the back and inflicting a mortal wound. He was a clever boy, a brave soldier and liked by all. He was borne away and lived long enough to say he would die but he would be better off. We lay there an hour or two under the shells, the regiment standing it nobly, remaining in line all the time. The enemy was driven back and we moved to the right and front and were halted again. Late in the evening we were moved forward and Gen. Cheatham taking command of Wright's Brigade and this one giving the commands himself. I expected to see it, but instead Wright's moved on and we halted. It lasted but a little while. Longstreet has pressed them on the left and under the combined attack they fled from their breastworks, leaving their artillery and many prisoners behind. A glorious shout

went up along the whole line announcing the victory. Several generals collected in front of us and listened intently. Gen. Polk seemed to enjoy it extremely. While the fighting was going on we moved up a little and I never saw troops move so well in the woods. When silence reigned we laid ourselves down to sleep. Rosy is now certainly defeated and is moving off while not near all of our troops have been yet engaged. Those who have been over the battlefield somewhat do not think that the loss of life has been great. It is said we have captured 30 pieces of Artillery and 15 thousand prisoners. We have been greatly in want of water, which had to be brought from the Chicamauga, two or three miles off. I have had but little chance to observe much in the whole battle. Gen's, Hood, Helm, Adams, and Churchill are said to be among the killed and wounded. Lt. Col. Finley arrived late in the evening and is assigned to duty in the regiment. (Note) Though under fire so much we did not get to fire a gun.\* [

Sept. 21st.

Moved out and formed line of battle near the Chattanooga & La Fayette Road. Skirmishes were thrown out and I expected to be soon engaged, but they advanced 3 or 4 miles finding only stragglers, and hospital details and wounded. Everything was as still as the calm after a storm, until evening when cannon were heard in the direction of Chattanooga, which is about 8 miles off. Two yankee hospitals are near us, for the 2 Div. Army Corps and 3rd Div. Army Corps. The Yankees taken early in the battle said "Wait till it is over." but those we see now are both to talk and look dispirited. This is the only battle that I have ever fought in that we have held the battlefield and

\* [This note is not a tracing of the original. Apparently it was added 1907. P. H. S.]

it does me good to march across it, northward. Rosy has withdrawn to Chattanooga. An hour or two by sun we were put in motion and moved several miles down Chicamauga valley and bivouacked for the night. The citizens say the enemy commenced passing about dark and ceased before midnight. They seemed glad to see us return. The enemy have not spared them. The boys have thrown down their old muskets and picked up rifles, mostly Enfields. and with about 8 or 10 exceptions the regiment have all Rifles. The boys declare they will never give them up again. It has been difficult to obtain Enfield cartridges for them.

Sept. 22nd

Moved up to the foot of Missionary Ridge and halted most of the day for Maney's Brigade to drive them from the top, and for the Cavalry to cross and clear a way at the foot. Halting awhile near the top I took a look but could see only a great dust around town and over the river and what looked like a pontoon with wagons. Those with a glass said there were three pontoons crossing wagons and Cavalry fording. Entering Chattanooga valley we formed line of battle near Manigault's old camp with Smith and Wright to the right and Maney and Jackson to the left of us. Pegram's Cavalry skirmishing a little, to the right of us. After placing pickets we retired to rest. Our Co. was placed <sup>out</sup> to the left and soon relieved by Maney's occupying the position to the pleasure of all.



Sept. 23rd

The balance of our Corps crossed over, also Hill's. Longstreet has driven the enemy across Chattanooga Creek at the bridge near the Old tan-yard and has his pickets at Cheatham's old Hdqrs, on the LaFayette Road, two miles from town. The slight wounded shocked, bruised, lost &c, have come up. The wagons have moved up to Chicamauga, and one wagon being here with rations, our knapsacks had to be left and will I fear be lost. Roasted and eat potatoes from a patch near by, rested, slept, &c. till near night, when we were moved to the right, and forward half a mile or so, and formed a new line. Much talk and speculation about changing our own works, passed round, some fearing it and some few going so far as to declare they would not. I see no use for this and shall await events.

Sept. 24th

The enemy's cannon firing at Longstreets men awaked us at dawn, but it soon ceased, everything remained quiet until late in the evening, when the pickets raising a fuss, and the enemy commenced shelling in every direction, so suddenly that it nearly scared us boys out of our wits. A stray "Minie" struck Sergt. Brevard in the breast, partly burying itself after passing through his clothes. We were called to attention and moved off by the right flank to the rear. Halted in a field near the base of the Ridge for Walker's Division to move up to the top. Pieces of shells flew all around us, making a noise like a "Spinning wheel" but the sun was shining just right for us to see and dodge them. Moved up the side of the

hill, and formed on its slope. We had hardly retired to sleep before heavy skirmishing between the pickets awakened us, which continued for half an hour or so, artillery being added, but no damage done. The Yankees were driven back some distance. All then remained still till morning. The enemy has connected our forts with each other, and the river with rifle pits and cut down timber in front, so I see no hope of getting them out by fighting, without great loss. Flanking seems impossible to fall back would be to give up the fruits of the victory. What will be done.

Sept 26th

Everything has been quiet, most of yesterday and today. One regiment of the Brigade is kept on picket in front. A breastwork of rails, logs, and rocks, has been thrown up along the foot of the "Ridge" and the ridge lined with artillery. The wagon train has moved up to within 3 or 4 miles of us. I hear that about 500 men are engaged building pontoons above here.

Sept. 27th Sunday.

Baggage is being reduced, knapsacks no longer hauled, wagons & cooking utensils being turned over. The latter reduced to just enough for two men from each Co. to cook with. Had inspection at 9. The Rev. Mr. Swoorer has been appointed Chaplain of the 4th and preached at Gen Strahl's Hdqrs. It was a regular city Episcopal

sermon and will not take in camp at all. The regt. was sent on Picket at 4 P. M. The "videttes" are within half a mile of their works and we could see their movements plainly.

Sept. 28th

All was silent while our picket duty lasted. We were relieved by the 19th at 10 A. M. Charlie Kennerly arrived from Henry and says all are well at home but brings no letters. The Yankees have left Fort Heiman. None are stationed nearer than Union City. They killed Carter Foster and 3 others near Conyersville after they had surrendered. Accusing them of being guerrillas. I am sorry that that has become a somewhat neutral ground.

Sept. 30th

Gen. Polk is said to be relieved, because he failed to bring on the attack at daylight on Sunday morning at Chicamauga. I am sorry for I like him better than all our generals. We took 7,000 prisoners, 30,000 stand of small arms and 37 pieces of artillery at the battle of Chicamauga. All has been quiet in front for two days. All the Yankee wounded have been sent into Chattanooga. A man in the 27th Tennessee who had deserted has been found among the prisoners and shot. All the cooks but two to the Co. have been sent in. They will see hard times certain. Lieut. Milam is preparing to go to West Tenn. I write by him. x x x.



Nov. 25th

Rumors of a hard fight at the front yesterday, and reported repulse of Bragg. The wounded of day before have arrived and confirm the driving our pickets in, and capture of two small hills in our front. Gen. Bragg's telegram to Gen. Cooper, says the enemy made an ineffectual attempt to take Look Out. The 24th & 28th Ala. is said to have defended it to the last.

Nov. 26th

Attended the Theater last night but there was so small an audience that there was no performance. Miss Kemble sang a patriotic song, and our money was paid back. The Manager thought most everybody was gone to the front. I doubt it. The first news that greets me this morning is that Bragg has fallen back to Chicamauga. The papers have Bragg's Dispatch to Gen. Cooper confirming it. He says his left fell back in disorder. Oh! what a situation. Southern troops running from such a position as that. I await to see for myself. I met Col. J. D. C. Atkins on the street and he would say nothing of the future. He is looking despondent indeed.

Nov. 27th

Left Atlanta last night at 8 P. M. in a crowded car, and with a vulgar drunken crowd. At Kingston the down train reported Bragg falling back to Dalton. I do not believe it. Arrived at D. just before day having passed a cold, sleepless night, and was informed that the train would go no further until further orders. The Hospitals are filled with wounded. All from the front report that the enemy's advance was in overwhelming numbers, and irresistible and worse that some of our troops acted shamefully. Going up in town I was ordered to report to the Camp of Instruction. I went out there and awaited the coming of the Division. The wagons commenced passing about an hour by the sun, and about twelve the troops came on, and such disorder! discipline seems gone and a regiment cannot be told from a division. It makes me sick at heart. I must stop writing. Dick Curd passed late in the evening and I went out and spent the night, getting wet (as it rained) and took a chill.

Nov. 28th

Morning found it raining which continued till noon. I heard of the Division and started to it in the evening. Arriving there I found my worst fears realized. Only four of Co D. was there. Beckwith, Cox & Miller. Capt. Kendall is severely wounded and a prisoner. But little account can be given of the others. The regi-